



Soldiers from the 264th Engineer Group staffed three two-week rotations of additional annual training to help build schools and medical clinics in Nicaragua.

Wisconsin Guard builds closer ties in Nicaragua

By Peter Fox
At Ease Staff

VALLE DE SEBACO, Nicaragua — Elementary school children here have several dozen Wisconsin residents to thank for the new roof over their heads, walls for their classrooms, a sanitary latrine instead of holes in the ground, and the ability to get to class during the rainy season without having to wade across a swollen stream.

Sixty members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard traveled to this area of northeastern Nicaragua to work under austere conditions during

August and early September. “These soldiers should be proud to be a part of our foreign relations,” said Oliver P. Garza, U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua. “They have given their sweat and labor to build, and have been paid not in dollars but in the warmth and friendship of the Nicaraguan people.”

What were Wisconsin Guard members — and, for that matter, active-duty Marines and U.S. Army personnel, Army Reserve members and Guard members from more than 10 other states — doing in Nicaragua, a country that endured a tortured civil war with one side supported by the Reagan

Administration and more than a decade of contentious political relations with the United States? The answer lies both in a longer history of better times and better ties between the two nations — including a 35-year sister-state relationship with Wisconsin — and the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch in November 1998.

Mitch slammed across most of Central America but wreaked particular havoc on Honduras, Nicaragua’s neighbor to the north, and rural portions of Nicaragua. Damage estimates by humanitarian and governmental organizations predict it will take de-

Retired Air Guard chief gets medal for WWII heroism

Risked life to save crewmate on B-17 over Germany

By Tim Donovan
At Ease Staff

On Jan. 21, 1945, an 8th Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress was returning to England from a bomb run over the railroad marshalling yards at Mannheim, Germany, when an extraordinary act of heroism saved the life of one aircrew member and began a 55-year wait for recognition.

On board the bomber that afternoon was a crew of nine, including the 20-year-old flight engineer, Staff Sgt. Mike Terlizzi of Milwaukee. Terlizzi was manually cranking the jammed bomb bay doors closed when the bomber’s radio operator, Sgt. Vern Kellogg, did not respond to a routine oxygen system intercom check. At 28,000 feet, Kellogg would not survive long without oxygen.

The door from the aft waist section to the radio compartment could not be opened and the only other way into the radio room was through the open bomb bay, blasted by the minus 60-degree slip-

stream. His heated flying suit already unplugged, Terlizzi peeled off his bulky parachute and squeezed his way between the interior bomb racks toward the radio room along a six-inch wide catwalk - the only thing between the him and the ground, more than five miles below.

Eventually reaching the radio room, he rammed the blocked door open with his shoulder to find the radio operator unconscious with a flak-severed oxygen hose. Terlizzi connected his oxygen bottle to Kellogg’s mask and undoubtedly saved his life.

Back in England a few days later, the aircraft commander, Lt. John Gilcrest, recommended Terlizzi for an award. But the recommendation was somehow misplaced and Terlizzi’s bravery went unrecognized for more than a half century.

Terlizzi went on to complete 28 combat missions, along with food drops over the Netherlands and post-war repatriation missions for former political prisoners and Allied prisoners of war. Following his World War II service, Terlizzi joined the newly-formed Air National Guard in 1947 when a Wisconsin Air Guard unit was established in Milwaukee. He worked as a full-time

air technician until retiring from the 128th Air Refueling Group as a chief master sergeant in 1982. He now lives in Menomonee Falls.

It wasn’t until the mid-1990s that former pilot Gilcrest had another chance to get his flight engineer’s heroism formally rewarded. The Defense Appropriations Act of 1996 opened a window to recognize former military personnel for actions previously overlooked. Armed with affidavits from crew members, a statement from his former squadron commander, a certificate from the 390th Bomb Group Museum research director, and a letter from Vern Kellogg’s son, Gilcrest requested assistance from U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. A recommendation from a former service member’s congressman is required for a military record such as Terlizzi’s to be corrected.

Gilcrest’s persistence finally paid off in August, when the Air Force determined Terlizzi’s act of heroism qualified for a Distinguished Flying Cross.

The medal was awarded in a ceremony Dec. 3, at the 128th Air Refueling Wing base in Milwaukee.

Among those watching the presentation was John Gilcrest, the aircraft commander on the Mannheim mission who first recommended the award back in 1945 — and who followed up a half century later to make sure Terlizzi’s heroism did not stay unrecognized.



Mike Terlizzi

Black berets to become standard Army headgear

Black berets, now worn by soldiers in elite Ranger units, will become the Army’s standard headgear beginning next June, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki announced in October.

“It is time for the entire Army to accept the challenge of excellence that has so long been a hallmark of our special operations and airborne units,” Shinseki said. Adopting the berets will be “another step toward achieving the capabilities of the objective force” of Army transformation, he said.

Soldiers will begin wearing the beret June 14, “the first Army birth-

day of the new millennium,” Shinseki said.

All soldiers, regardless of rank or branch, will wear the beret if they meet the Army standard, Shinseki said. He added that Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley would come up with a plan to establish the standard and implement the change.

“Putting that beret on will become part of a soldier’s rite of passage,” Tilley said.

“I’ve got to tell you I was genuinely excited when I first

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at ease

Celebrating 23 years service to members of the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard and their families

Fall-Winter 2000

cades for Honduras and Nicaragua to recover: 11,000 people died, damage to public works exceeds \$10 billion in fragile economies, two million were left homeless, and thousands lost work because of damage to agribusiness.

“The Nicaraguan people recognize the American military presence as a helping hand; they appreciate it, they accept it, they welcome it,” said Garza, a Spanish-speaking career diplomat from San Antonio.

Immediate, life-saving aid in November and December of 1998 led to a humanitarian construction project in 1999 near the city of

Esteli, northwest of the capital Managua. All the assistance was coordinated through U.S. Southern Command, with headquarters in Miami, which operates as a joint command involving all branches of the American military.

Wisconsin Army Guard members filled out the last three two-week rotations during August and September, said Col. Michael J. Williams, commander of the 264th Engineer Group and a Janesville city employee in civilian life. The request from Southern Command, relayed through National Guard Bureau in Washington, for Wis-

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Crash exercise tests joint response at Truax

By Adam Bradley
At Ease Staff

To test its reflexes and expertise, the Wisconsin National Guard responded to a simulated crash of a Black Hawk helicopter Nov. 5 at Truax Field in Madison.

Both Air and Army Guard personnel and equipment contributed to the exercise to fulfill their various units needs of bi-annual mandatory training.

The exercise tested the

Guard’s capability to suppress an aircraft fire, rescue crash victims, provide on-site medical treatment, transport victims to medical facilities and secure the crash scene.

The simulation began at 8:30 a.m. with a “crashed” UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter with four passengers and two flight crew members on board engulfed in smoke. The victim’s

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Editorials

What’s in a name?

It’s been an interesting 23 years of publishing the At Ease newspaper quarterly for Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard members and their families.

The accomplishments of many thousand Wisconsin Guard members through the years as they went about their weekend drills, annual training, deployments, special duty, and missions at home and around the world have been documented in the pages of At Ease.

We think the time has come to update the newspaper as it enters the new millennium. “At Ease” was chosen more than two decades ago as the name of the publication that serves the state’s approximately 7,700 Army and 2,200 Air Guard members and their families.

The At Ease staff is seeking a new name for the publication to better reflect our Army and Air Guard members: who they are, what they do, from junior enlisted to senior officer, from Racine to Superior, from infantry soldier to jet pilot.

At Ease has an audience not only of Wisconsin Guard members and their families, but also news media, libraries, legislators, state government officials and military offices around the nation.

Many people enjoy looking through these pages to see what’s happening in the Wisconsin Guard.

The At Ease staff, and Guard members from privates to generals all want the best possible, reader-friendly newspaper.

That’s why Wisconsin Army and Air Guard members are invited to mail suggestions for a new name to:

At Ease
Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2400 Wright St.
Madison, WI 53704

We look forward to your suggestions.

Korea remembered

To honor veterans who served during the Korean War, which began 50 years ago, Wisconsin National Guard units are urged to join the Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Community Program sponsored by the Department of Defense.

Guard units and other organizations can become a commemorative community by agreeing to develop three events each year from 2000 to 2003 that honor Korean War veterans and their families. Examples of qualifying events include sponsoring ceremonies or educational displays honoring Korean War veterans.

Commemorative communities will receive a certificate of designation from the Secretary of Defense, a Korean War commemorative community flag and authorization to use Korean War commemorative logo.

Applications and additional information for the commemorative community program are available from county veterans service offices and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Web site at <http://dva.state.wi.us>.

at ease

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at ease: TWENTY YEARS AGO...

From the Fall, 1980 edition:

It was considered likely that the Madison Air National Guard unit would convert to the A-10 tactical fighter. The 128th TASW (Tactical Air Support Wing) previously flew the OA-37 observation plane, a jet designed to spot and mark targets for airplanes like the A-10. In this photo, one of the wing’s OA-37’s is dwarfed by an A-10 on the ramp at Truax Field.

Other news from 20 years ago:

- Guard members were called up after a windstorm ripped through Eau Claire, Dunn, Chippewa and Pierce Counties on July 15, 1980. Members 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry were activated to help local authorities patrol darkened streets. Other units within a 250-mile radius of the storm’s path were called to provide generators and trained operators.

Guard, Reserve dental benefits expand

Armed Forces Information Service

National Guard and Reserve families will be included as beneficiaries for the new TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) beginning Feb. 1, 2001, under Department of Defense policy guidelines. This will significantly expand the number of Reserve forces personnel eligible for TDP.

One important new feature will allow National Guard and Reserve members called to active duty in support of contingency operations to sign their family members up for the TDP by excluding them from the mandatory enrollment period.

“The TDP will be a tremendous benefit to National Guard and Reserve personnel in the very near future,” said Charles L. Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. “And the new policy guidelines will significantly improve the readiness of Reserve force families.”

Under the current program, all military personnel are required to have at least 24 months remaining on active duty to enroll in the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan (TFMDP). The new program will reduce this mandatory enrollment period from 24 months to 12 months of Service commitment. It also will combine the TFMDP and the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program (TSRDP). For Reserve and National Guard members, this means more covered services than were available under the TSRDP and a larger provider network.

Since 1995, more than 30,000 Reserve force personnel have served on involuntary active duty tours to support presidential Reserve call-ups for Bosnia, Kosovo and Southwest Asia.

Guard and Reserve personnel ordered to active duty in support of contingency operations are limited by statute to serving an ac-

tive duty tour of 270 days or less.

“The TFMDP mandatory enrollment period has precluded these reservists from enrolling their families in the TFMDP,” said Cragin. “Without the new guidelines, reservists who cannot afford to pay the full premium for continuing their civilian dental plan would be denied family dental coverage while on active duty.”

The new policy guidelines for TDP were recently published in the Federal Register. The program will be administered through a new contract with United Concordia Companies Inc.

“Contingency operations are ongoing and the new dental program will be a significant benefit for Reserve families in the near future,” Cragin said. “The authority to waive the mandatory enrollment period demonstrates our commitment to military readiness. If our families receive better care, the more ready our Total Force will be.”

Berets to replace most Army headgear

From Page 1

heard about it,” Tilley said of the beret idea. “I think it will do a lot for soldiers’ pride and image. It will probably be something of a shock when soldiers first hear about it, but it’s something we need as the Army moves through transformation.”

Shinseki made the beret announcement at the end of his speech to more than 2,000 members of the Association of the United States Army Oct. 17 at the organization’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

“Soldiering is an affair of the heart,” Shinseki said as he began to explain the symbolism of the beret. He officiated a change-of-command ceremony recently for the Army’s Special Operations Command. He said as he watched the troops, he was reminded that the agility, deployability and adaptability of those soldiers was symbolized by their berets.

“Starting next June, the

black beret will be symbolic of our commitment to transform this magnificent Army into a new force - a strategically responsive force for the 21st century,” Shinseki said. “It will be a symbol of unity, a symbol of Army excellence, a symbol of our values.”

Shinseki said special operations and airborne

soldiers will continue to wear their distinctive berets. Soldiers in airborne units wear maroon berets and Special Forces wear green berets.

Soldiers in U.S. Army Ranger units now wear black berets while in their dress uniforms and also when in garrison wearing the Battle Dress Uniform.

They wear the BDU soft cap or kevlar helmet in the field.

While Rangers have worn the black beret since the mid-1970s, they have not had a monopoly on the stylish cap. Prior to the Rangers adopting the berets, they were worn by armor troops at Fort Knox, Ky., and others in armored cavalry units.

New ‘flash’ will be universal

Ending the discussion whether soldiers will wear distinctive unit flashes on their black berets when they are initially issued in June, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki recently decided on a universal flash.

All soldiers will initially wear the universal flash, except for those in units that already have berets, such as Ranger, Airborne and Special Forces. These troops will continue to wear the beret flashes they currently have.

The new flash, worn on the left front of the beret, is a semicircular shield 1-7/8 inches wide and 2-1/4 inches high. It has a bluebird background with 13 white stars superimposed just inside its outer border. Officers will wear their rank in the center of the shield.

“The flash is designed to closely replicate the colors (flag) of the commander in chief of the Continental Army at the time of its victory at Yorktown,” said Pam Reece, an industrial specialist with the Army’s Institute of Heraldry. Reece and other institute staff members created four beret flash designs from which Shinseki made his selection.

The universal flash will eventually be replaced by unit-specific flashes.

“It is time for the entire Army to accept the challenge of excellence that has so long been a hallmark of our special operations and airborne units,” Shinseki said. Adopting the berets will be “another step toward achieving the capabilities of the objective force” of Army transformation, he said.



Wisconsin Army, Air Guard members receive military achievement awards

Outstanding soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines from the seven reserve components in Wisconsin were honored at the 36th Annual Wisconsin Military Achievement Awards Ceremony on Oct. 22 at the state Capitol. Among the 52 award winners, 27 were members of the Wisconsin National Guard.

The guest speaker was retired Maj. Gen. Terrence Mulcahy, U.S. Army Reserve. In civilian life, Mulcahy is the state secretary of transportation.

The Wisconsin Military Achieve-

ment Awards program started in 1964. More than 1,750 enlisted members of the reserve components in the state have been honored since the program began.

This year's program was made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin State Committee for Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve.

To qualify for the award, the enlisted service members must be assigned to a National Guard or Reserve unit in Wisconsin, and must meet exceptionally high standards

including proficiency in their military assignment, leadership ability, military appearance and public service. Awardees are nominated by their commanders and selected by military boards from their respective component.

Winners from the National Guard are shown as they received their awards.

Not pictured are Spc. Joshua J. Cramlet, Cpl. Jacob J. Eckhart, Staff Sgt. Alan D. Foss, Sgt. Steven S. Kuesel, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin A. Meinke, and Cpl. Jeremiah T. Oestereich.



Staff Sgt. Daniel R. Blend



Spc. Brent A. Boorsma



Sgt. Lashell L. Boullion



Master Sgt. Shonn C. Breton



Spc. Brandon W. Brunner



Tech. Sgt. Gregory A. Cullen



Master Sgt. Mark S. Deese



Staff Sgt. Franklin J. Fisher



Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey A. Fletcher



Sgt. 1st Class Ronald J. Kodl



Sgt. Kim M. LaHaie



Staff Sgt. Joseph F. Lovgren



Master Sgt. Paul J. Maczka



Spc. Kenneth J. Myszkewicz



Cpl. Nathan P. Olson



Staff Sgt. Raymond M. Olson



Staff Sgt. Sandra M. Poppy



Sgt. John L. Robbert



Officer Candidate Tony R. Steinhoff



Sgt. Kerri L. Wollenzien

Crash exercise

From Page 1

injuries ranged from burned hands to lost limbs.

First on the crash site, near the Army Aviation Support Facility, was the Air Guard's Truax Field Fire Department with immediate fire suppression and then casualty evacuation. Once the patients were taken to a safe location away from the simulated burning aircraft, medical units from both the Air and Army National Guard provided support.

The first medics to arrive on the site were from the Air Guard's 115th Fighter Wing and soon after medics from the Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation, rolled up.

Together the two units worked as a team to assist each other in performing lifesaving skills for the six patients.

"Today looked like it went pretty well. A little confusion but I think worked well," said Air Guard Lt. Col. Sandra Orfgen, flight surgeon with the 115th



Truax Fire Department personnel extract "victims" from an Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

Medical Squadron.

For immediate transportation, a Black Hawk helicopter from the 147th landed near the crash site to transfer patients to local hospitals.

The purpose of the event was to evaluate the effective-

ness of the command and the ability to control the emergency situation, said Air Guard Maj. Keith Geurts, chief of the exercise evaluation team.

"The exercise went very well, a few rusty areas but overall pretty well," said Geurts.

Charges dropped against bomb suspect

Federal authorities regret disruption to former Guard pilot's life

The U.S. Attorney's Office dismissed all criminal charges against the former Wisconsin Army National Guard helicopter pilot in connection with an attempted pipe bombing of the Air Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing.

Charges against Milan S. Mititch were dropped on Sept. 15 after the FBI concluded he could not have committed the crimes.

Mititch was suspected in a July 19 incident at the Air Guard's Mitchell Field base in Milwaukee alone intruder spray painted graffiti on satellite dish at the base, then left two explosive devices behind as he fled

from an Air National Guard base security guard.

Mititch claimed he was not in Milwaukee at the time.

Although one eyewitness identified Mititch, federal law investigators found other evidence that did not support pursuing a case against Mititch.

In a statement released Sept. 15, the U.S. Attorney's office said, "The FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office sincerely regret the serious disruption that Mr. Mititch has experienced."

Mititch was a warrant officer in the Wisconsin Army National Guard from 1988 to 1999. He flew both AH-1 Cobra and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters with 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation.

The incident in Milwaukee remains under investigation.

State News Briefs

New veterans home improvement loan rate

Veterans now have available to them a Wisconsin Department of Veterans affairs (WDVA) Home Improvement Loan Program at an interest rate of 7.45 percent. With this home improvement loan, veterans may borrow up to \$25,000 with 15 years to repay, according to Ted F. Fetting, Milwaukee County Director and Veterans Service Officer.

“At this new 7.45 percent interest rate, a \$25,000 home improvement loan from the WDVA will cost a veteran \$231 per month over the 15-year repayment period,” says Fetting.

WDVA home improvement loans may be used for a variety of additions, construction, repairs and alterations of a veteran’s principal residence. The loans also may be used for garage construction. It may not be used to purchase personal property, such as furniture.

Veterans must meet military service and state residency requirements to be eligible for the WDVA home improvement loan. In addition to wartime veterans from Wisconsin, state veterans who served on active duty for two continuous years— regardless of when they served— generally meet the military service requirement. Unremarried spouses of deceased veterans who would have met the military service and state residency requirements may also be eligible for home improvement loans. WDVA home improvement loans no longer have maximum income limits, so veterans with higher incomes may qualify.

“Due to a recent legislative change, the loan may be secured with any type of mortgage on the property to be improved. Loans of \$3,000 of less may be secured with a guarantor instead of a mortgage. Veterans who already have a WDVA home improvement loan may qualify for a second loan,” said Fetting.

“The applicant must have at least 10 percent equity in the property to be improved. This means that the value of the property must be at least 10 percent higher than the sum of the existing mortgages, including the home improvement loan mortgage. To calculate the value of the property, the WDVA uses the equalized assessed or fair market value, shown on a property tax statement, plus one-half the cost of the home improvements. At their own discretion, applicants may submit an appraisal from an approved appraiser instead of the assessed value to establish the necessary equity,” he added.

For more information or to apply for WDVA home improvement loans and other programs, veterans should contact the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs toll free at 1-800-947-8387 or the Veterans Service Office in their county. More information is available on the WDVA Web site at <http://dva.state.wi.us>.

Merit promotions authorized

A new retention incentive could speed up promotions for deserving E-4s in many Wisconsin Army Guard units.

“We want to do everything we can to keep our best and brightest, and we know waiting for a unit vacancy is frustrating for a hard-charging young troop,” said Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson. “(National Guard) Bureau has given us this tool to help recognize and reward that soldier,” he added.

To qualify for a merit promotion E4’s must have their commander’s recommendation and be willing to extend their enlistment for three years. In addition, the unit must have no current sergeant/E-5 vacancies in the same military occupational specialty.

“This will allow unit commanders to promote and retain deserving E-4s even when the unit doesn’t have an immediate vacancy,” said Col. Art Zuleger, Wisconsin Army Guard director of personnel and administration.

Global Patriot combines Air, Army, international forces

Volk Field was one of four military installations to host units participating in Global Patriot ‘00, a major reserve forces combined training exercise in June for air and ground forces.

Global Patriot included live-fire air and land maneuvers for more than 6,000 service members from the Air and Army National Guard, Air Force, Air Force Reserve, active Army, Army Reserve, Navy and Marines. They joined with British and Dutch forces to engage in joint training at Volk Field, Fort Drum, N.Y., and the Alpena (Mich.) Combat Readiness Training Center.

Global Patriot created a battlefield environment in which units defined their training objectives and exercise scenarios to accomplish their goals. The exercise emphasized joint interoperability and interconnectivity to ensure that all personnel trained with a complete system. The live exercise action centered on the activation and mobilization of forces to support a theater element.

The exercise integrated and tested advanced command and control technology developed by the Air Force Research Laboratory. Some of the new systems tested were hostile target identification, multispectral tactical imagery, foliage penetration radar testing, and the secure voice adapter.

115th Fighter Wing hosts families

By Tom Michele
At Ease staff

Formal induction of about 65 new non-commissioned officers, a family briefing by the wing commander, a brief history lesson, tours of various shop and office facilities, displays of flight, power and weapons systems, and a free lunch were all part of the 115th Fighter Wing’s annual family day Oct. 15.

Spouses, children, parents, and other relatives and friends of wing members got to visit the wing facilities to get ultra-close-up views, sights, sounds, and even some hands-on experiences.

Brig. Gen. Fred Sloan, wing commander, told the audience about the commitment and change that has been and will be part of Air Guard life.

“You are agile warriors, deploying all over the world,” Sloan said. “It is an awesome responsibility. Since the Wisconsin Air National Guard was formed, more than 100,000 airmen and women have gone through the ranks. There has



Airmen 1st Class Justin Salerno’s first drill weekend with his unit, the 115th Fighter Wing, was Family Day Oct. 15 and his parents, Richard and Therese Salerno, got to see what their son works on. The young airman had just completed technical school Oct. 6. A jet engine mechanic, he is showing his parents a section of compressor fan blades from an F-16 engine. Photo by Tom Michele.

been a commitment and volunteer spirit to change, to continue, every year, and we have come a long way. It has been difficult as it evolved, and it has created a culture of excellence. When you put on your uniforms, it is for pride, benefits,

personal integrity and honor, values, serving your militia, community, state and nation, in peacetime and in time of being called up to duty. It’s a great story.”

Airmen recently promoted as NCOs received certificates.

Family Program workshop planned

By Maj. Joni Mathews
Family Support

The 2001 Family Program Workshop will take place at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc. The dates of the workshop are March 23-25.

The workshop is open to all volunteers, military representatives, commanders and first sergeants at any level. This is a great opportunity to share ideas, learn about the Family Program, and meet new friends. The theme for this year’s conference is “Where in the

World is the National Guard?”

Since the National Guard is deploying more and more out of state and out of country, we need to ensure that our families, soldiers, and airmen are ready. We will focus on informing our family and service members how to prepare for mobilization.

We will also be holding Phase Training, which is designed for volunteers and military personnel to focus on the most important elements in developing an effective Family Program. The session leader provides useful sugges-

tions on how to get families interested and involved, how to overcome obstacles, and how to avoid common pitfalls.

We will also provide child care at this event. If anyone is interested in assisting with child care, please contact the State Family Program Office at 1-800-292-9464, or the Youth Coordinator, Angela Ernisse, 1-920-893-0938. Registration packets for the workshop will be mailed to all volunteers and military representatives, and to every armory and base by late January.

Wisconsin Guard wins top Defense Department award for drug control

By Eric Wedeking
National Guard Bureau

Celebrating a decade’s worth of drug abuse prevention efforts during “Red Ribbon Week” observances at the Pentagon, the Wisconsin National Guard was honored— along with other Department of Defense services— for their drug control program involving interaction between the Badger State’s youth and National Guard troops.

Pentagon officials also applauded the entire National Guard drug-demand reduction efforts be-

cause of the Guard’s sizeable Youth Challenge programs involving 8,000 separate activities and touching more than one million of the nation’s children, said Wisconsin Air National Guard Col. Thomas Haase, counter-drug coordinator and a Wisconsin Air National Guard deputy chief of staff. “I think it’s gratifying to see all of the hard work by our men and women being recognized nationally.”

The Wisconsin National Guard constructed a “Low Ropes” course at Volk Field and also developed mobile courses in five regions throughout the state.

Wisconsin’s growing program, in which more than 32,000 youths participated in three years, encourages teamwork and healthy, drug-free activities while requiring parents to become directly involved.

“Kids want a challenge and structure, and this course appeals to the kids,” Blaney said.

Wisconsin National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. James Blaney, who also received the drug awareness award along with Terrell Haleska, director of the Wisconsin Office of Federal-State Relations, said the program parallels military-style, leadership reaction course.



National Guard Bureau chief Lt. Gen. Russell Davis (third from left) joins Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney and Brig. Gen. Kerry G. Denson and Albert H. Wilkening and members of the Wisconsin Guard’s tops-in-the-nation drug control program following a Pentagon award ceremony Oct. 23.

Guard doctor gives hope to injured vets

By Gary Thompson
At Ease staff

Wear your uniform into the veterans hospital in Milwaukee someday. Regardless of your rank, you will receive salutes and warm comments from the patients and family members that you meet.

These are the service members who came before us; who know the personal sacrifice that comes with military service.

This is where Maj. Kenneth K. Lee, M.D., works full time when he is not commanding Company B, 118th Medical Battalion in Waukesha. Doctor Lee is a spinal cord injury staff physician at the Zablocki VA Medical Center and an assistant professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

"I like the VA because of the association with the veterans here," says Lee. "The vets associate with me better because of my National Guard background."

With a specialty in spinal cord injury, many of Lee's new patients come to him clinging to life, unable to breathe on their own. At the same time, their families struggle to come to terms with the challenges of sudden paralysis.

Lee says that over time, with the patient's hard work, the initial critical condition and the family's high expectations of recovery align at a midpoint.

"The biggest thing is taking a disabled person and helping them become productive again," says Lee.

In the physical therapy room, Lee provides encouragement as his patients struggle to accomplish tasks that most people take for granted. "Come on, you can do one more," he says to a wheelchair bound patient struggling to lift a light weight.

"Rehabilitation is all about teamwork," says Lee.

That, he says, is one reason he volunteers with the Paralyzed Veterans of America, where he serves as a coach and physician: "At the events they are all assigned teams."

The teamwork and the competition drive the participants to achieve things that were once thought impossible. That, for him, is the most satisfying part of his job and his volunteer work.

"I get to see something I was a part of. You put in the hard work and get to see it come together. That's rewarding," says Lee.



Dr. Kenneth Lee makes his rounds in the spinal cord injury department at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Milwaukee. His patient, Mr. Kenneth McNew, Jr. of New Lisbon, was paralyzed ten years ago in a motorcycle accident.

He describes the time he coached one of his patients in a swimming event at the Paralyzed Veterans' "Wheelchair Summer Games."

"He is a quadriplegic who was

barely breathing when he came in," says Lee.

He says the patient's family was on hand as he was put in the water for the swimming event.

They held their breath every time

he struggled to inch forward across the pool.

"Everyone thought he was going to die when he injured his spinal cord—and there he is, out there swimming in a competition."

Mount Shasta: trip to the summit

Editor's Note: This is the second part of a two-part story. In Part 1, the 2-127th infantry soldiers made their first attempt at Mt. Shasta's summit until weather forced them back to the base camp. Part 2 begins the next morning.

By Shane Dana
Co. A, 2-127 Infantry

First call came early the next morning — the long-awaited summit day. An early start was necessary. At night, the wet snow freezes making the slope ideal for using crampons. By midday the slopes turn to slush making them nearly impossible to climb. The early morning moon was full and the skies clear. The view of the moonlit slopes upward was breathtaking. It definitely made being awake at this ungodly hour worthwhile.

We initially headed out in file to our first staging area where we all locked in on the ropes. Each team headed out 10 minutes apart using the same route. My team was in the rear, and we quickly caught the squad in front of us. In response, our guide, "Crazy-E" as he was affectionately called, decided to show us a special way to the top. Beware of guides whose first name is "Crazy." Likely, it is for good reason.

As the other teams kicked steps into the snow to our left, we took a near straight shot up and to the right side of the Bolam Glacier. We soon found ourselves on a slope that boggled our minds. I couldn't believe we were not sliding to a perilous ending. The thought that kept running through my mind centered on the stories the guides told us about people not self-arresting in the first few meters after slipping. Apparently, one gains so much speed so quickly that the friction

from the rough snow, ice and rock quickly disintegrates a human body into a bloody streak on the mountainside.

Our route took us through a stretch of vertical terrain that was a combination of rock, sheer ice and terror. It was something no one could possibly describe to someone who wasn't there. And, no one dares reach for a camera while climbing to prove it either. At times, my whole bodyweight would be supported by a just a couple of spikes on the crampons that stuck barely one-quarter inch into the ice aided by a couple of fingers hanging on a lava rock. Each one of us was directly over the other at this point. A single slip on anyone's part and it's a game of human dominos. We finally made it to "The Step" — our first objective — at about 0600 hours.

This plateau allowed the whole platoon to catch its breath together. We had linked up with the other teams and learned that five guys had turned back. What shocked me was that the total included some of our strongest troops and all were prior service. One soldier developed pulmonary edema, an unfortunate consequence for some at higher altitudes that makes breathing near impossible. A decrease in altitude is the only antidote. The other four soldiers found fear playing mind games on their psyches and gave in to it. With the foresight that only hindsight can offer, I realized I could have prevented this attrition by spreading out the NCOs that used more extreme approaches to motivation. Failure in the presence of some

of these leaders would be much worse than falling down the mountain. Even this short rest at 13,000 feet with food and drink may have been a mistake.



1st Lt. Shane Dana

There was too much time to think about the dangers inherent with such a climb. The break also provided sufficient pause to think too much about the symptoms

of altitude sickness we all had — nausea and headaches. Thirty minutes was too long for a rest, so continuing on was a welcome change. As expected, Crazy-E added his own personal touch to the climb. We had a strong rope team, and he wanted to push us all the way to the top. Perhaps, the boulder that nailed his leg after it was kicked loose from a rope team above motivated him as well.

Only 1,000 feet remained, but in our current state of mental and physical fatigue it seemed an insane distance that provided an overwhelming number of challenges. There were many false summits that gave way to the all-too-familiar lament, "just one more ridge line."

As we approached the top, other teams were on their way back and the intelligence they provided discouraged us.

"When you get there, you won't like it," they all said.

And, how right they were. The actual summit was across a narrow ridge that was very steep on either side. The 70 mile-per-hour wind gusts that tore across the summit made our earlier battles with wind seem like child's play. These winds carried snow and ice particles that worked like a

sandblaster on exposed skin. In spite of this, we all transcended the final two feet of altitude to make the summit official.

The often spoken airborne charge of "All the Way" motivated me through the final ascent. At the summit was an iron box containing a register to be signed by all who made it. I wrote, "2nd Plt A Co 2-127, 32nd Brigade, WIARNG" and signed in the entire platoon's roster below it.

The trip down was a much more abbreviated trek. After descending past "The Step" and onto Bolam Glacier, we executed a platoon glissade. A glissade is basically a butt-slide using an ice axe as a brake to slow the descent. Twenty-five of us — one after the other — slid the remaining 1,500 feet to our original staging area. This exercise served to be a major morale booster. What took us hours on the way up took us minutes on the way down. From the staging area we humped into base camp and paused to reflect on what we had just accomplished.

The guides seemed pleased with the 25 out of 30 making it. Historically, only about one-third successfully complete the climb. More than 80 percent of our group made it. Way to go, Delta!

Not until the next day did we finish clearing the mountain. Later, in the hotel bathroom mirrors, we all saw the affects of our challenge — cracked, beef-jerky-type lips, scraggly facial hair, and raccoon-style sunburn due to the glasses we wore. Our muscles and noses told us the rest of what we needed to know.

Shane Dana is a 2nd Lieutenant and platoon leader in Co. A 2-127th Infantry.



Wisconsin Army Guard soldiers move across a narrow ridge toward the summit.

Say "ahhhh..."

Guard provides medical help to two communities

Story and Photos by
Julie Friedman
At Ease Staff

Continuing a tradition started in 1995, the 13th Medical Dental Detachment spent part of its annual training this year providing free health care to uninsured and underinsured Wisconsin residents.

The exercises, which have become known throughout the state as GuardCare, brings basic health screening services and health education to people who are unable to access medical or dental care due to lack of insurance or a shortage of providers in their area who will accept Medicaid.

Working in cooperation with the Beloit Health Department, the Guard soldiers set up a temporary clinic at Beloit Memorial High School Aug. 7-8.

On Aug. 9, they dismantled the entire operation, traveled to Kenosha, and set it up again at Frank Elementary School for another two-day clinic August 10-11.

"We're very pleased that we were chosen to host this initiative," said Frank Matteo, director of the Kenosha County Division of Health. "Access to health care is a major challenge for our uninsured and underinsured residents. It's an excellent opportunity for them to take advantage of many services being offered in one convenient location."

Among the services offered were

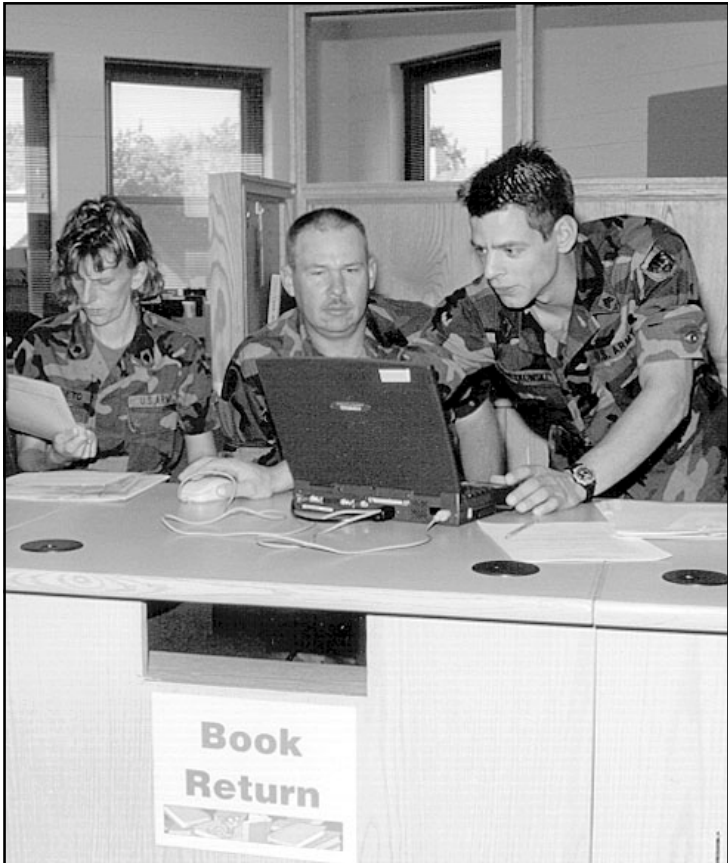
Head Start exams for children ages 3-6, sports physicals for school-aged youth, physical exams for adults, including mammograms and pap/pelvic exams for women, vision screenings, glaucoma tests, vaccinations for Tetanus and Hepatitis B, and smoking cessation counseling with free Nicoderm CQ patch kits.

Between the two locations, services were provided to 385 adults and 738 children. The local health departments also used the convenient location to offer their monthly "Shots for Tots" program, which resulted in another 326 infants and young children having their immunizations updated.

Perhaps the most popular aspect of GuardCare was the free dental sealants offered for youth ages 7 to 16. In four days, the staff in the dental clinic saw 326 children and sealed a total of 1,545 teeth. The estimated value of these services was almost \$39,000. Plans are already underway for GuardCare 2001, which will be conducted in Marinette County in Northeastern Wisconsin.



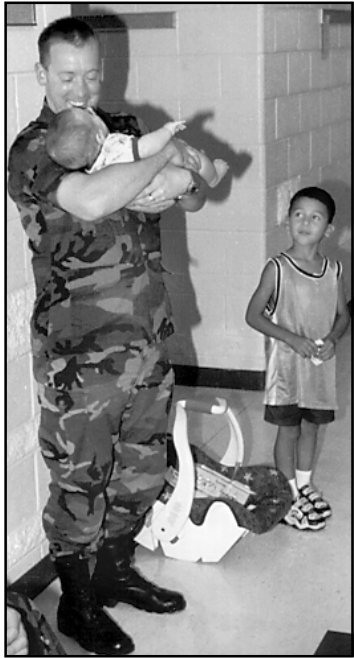
Maj. Dave Murray checks out 9 year old Cody Roberts of Kenosha, and proclaims him "good to go" for participation in the Christian Youth Center football program this year.



Left: Sgt. Gloria Barreto, Sgt. 1st Class Dick Wilson and Sgt. Eric Graczkowski set up shop in the library of Frank Elementary School in Kenosha to enter the data as patients out-process from the clinic.

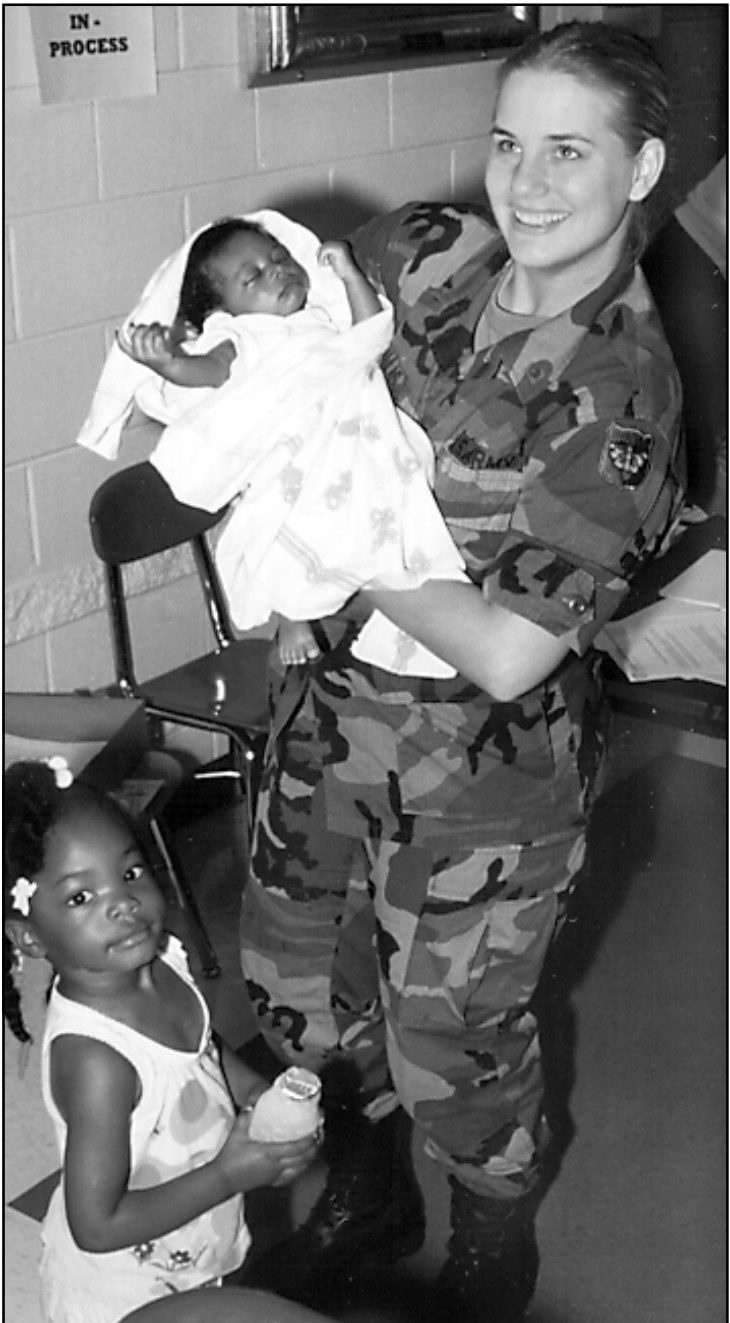


Right: Staff Sgt. Dan Klein repairs a portable dental unit that developed a problem with the suction line during the clinic.



Left: Staff Sgt. James Dachel enjoys interacting with the children, keeping them occupied while their mother accompanies another child to the examining room.

Below: Capt. Shar Hoffer gets a big smile from Nicholas Rogers, Beloit, as she listens to his heartbeat during the Head Start physical exam.



Spc. Jodi Mullins doesn't mind watching the children as mom fills out their paperwork at the in-processing station.

Nicaragua is training setting for engineers

From Page 1

consin participation came on short notice, Williams said.

Wisconsin jumped at the opportunity, Williams said, even though it meant his soldiers had to be volunteers for an additional two-week summer training period.

"This mission has very strong benefits," Williams explained, after being greeted by about two dozen children during a visit to the newly opened El Hato elementary school. "First, our soldiers are doing their military tasks. They are doing what engineers do, whether it is horizontal or vertical construction projects - what engineers love to do. So it's certainly critical for our soldiers to strengthen their skills."

"The other component," he continued, "is the chance to train in an overseas environment. Some of our young soldiers have never had the opportunity to get out of Wisconsin, let alone out of the country. The educational benefits the individual soldier receives in coming here and learning about this country is something you can't get out of a book."

"Task Force Sebaco," named for the city and valley about 70 miles north of Managua, arrived in May. A core staff of 20 National Guard personnel from 10 states including Wisconsin comprised the "duration staff." Additionally, 60 active-duty Marine specialists established a base camp "village" with all necessary services on an unoccupied coffee plantation.

Smaller numbers of U.S. Army communications technicians and Army Reserve civil affairs specialists became part of the task force administration. From 150 to 175 soldiers and Marines worked at or from the base camp at any one time; a total of 660 military personnel participated during the four-month task force, which concluded its work in mid-September.

Early on, two clinics, about 10 miles from each other and 20 miles from the base camp, were erected on vacant sites selected by local and national Nicaraguan officials. The Wisconsin Guard men and women arrived

as construction began on the El Hato school, and their particular skills were much in need — to finish off the two clinics and for the school.

"We needed electricians, plumbers, roofers and folks to clear construction sites," said Col. Marvin B. Duncan, an Alabama Guard officer who served as task force commander. "Wisconsin sent the right people - great attitudes, they were glad to be down here."

"It seemed like Wisconsin came down with the attitude, 'If we don't have a lot of work to do, we're going to find some extra projects to do,' and they were able to do that because we did finish earlier than we thought we would, but we would not have finished early without them," Duncan said. "They are a super group of people."

Among the extra projects completed: reconstructing dirt roads previously impassable during rainy weather, well repairs, regrading well-traveled roads, building playground equipment, and, a Wisconsin initiative: a baseball field complete with bleachers and benches in the dugouts in a country wild about "el beisbol."

Despite temperatures consistently above 90, clouds of mosquitoes, scorpions, coral and fer-de-lance snakes, and roaming wild dogs, Wisconsin soldiers said they enjoyed the experience.

"Do it again? In a heartbeat," exclaimed Pfc. Jennifer Homann, a member of the 106th Quarry Team of Ashland. Homann, a student at Indianhead Technical College, recently joined the Guard and completed her basic and advanced training courses. "It makes me realize why I joined - to help other people."

Spc. Jeremy Butala, an equipment operator with the quarry team, works in a machine shop as a civilian, but while on active duty with the 82nd Airborne Division never left the United States. Despite language differences, he said, "We're building good foreign relations. It's quite a challenge, though, to learn to communicate with people who

don't understand each other."

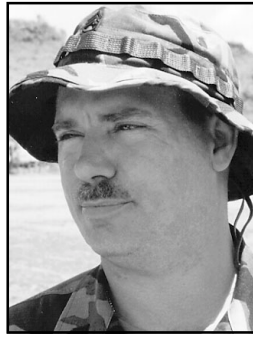
Sgt. First Class Mark Durkee of Rhineland is ending his 20-plus year career in the Guard, which includes two previous missions to Panama, but was grateful for this last deployment. "It's nice to see a project you complete, and you start and finish on your own."

The engineer group has units across the western half of Wisconsin, from Platteville in the south to Ashland in the north.

First Lt. Eric J. Leckel, who is finishing his college education, was in charge of all three increments of Wisconsin soldiers for Task Force Sebaco, including members of the 829th Utilities Detachment of Richland Center. Leckel said working with other services was particularly important for the Wisconsin soldiers: "It was a joint effort, and that's something our soldiers don't always get a chance to do."

Future assignments in Central and Latin America are likely for the Wisconsin Army Guard. In November, a Fort Atkinson infantry platoon was half of a military-to-military exchange with a platoon from Chile, and further involvement of the 264th Engineer Group in Nicaraguan nation-building is possible in 2002.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Squier, deputy director of the Army National Guard, visited the Wisconsin soldiers at Sebaco. "We're out here helping Americans be a better partner in support of the Americas, and trying to foster relationships



Mark Durkee



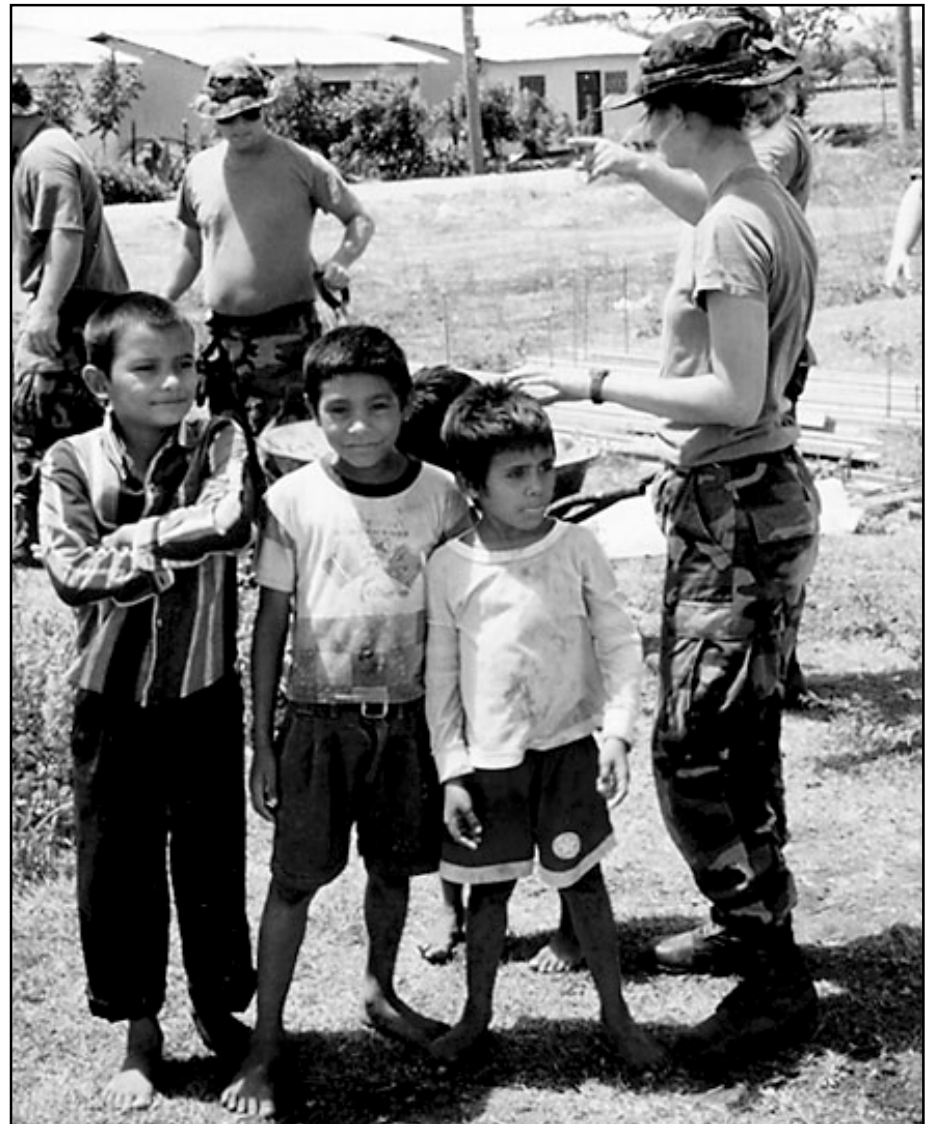
Jennifer Homann



"Escuela El Hato," which means El Hato School, provides the small village of El Hato with a two-room schoolhouse with a composting three-hole latrine. A task force of Marines and National Guard engineers from Wisconsin, Ohio and Puerto Rico constructed it.

that better understand the dynamics of a democratic society."

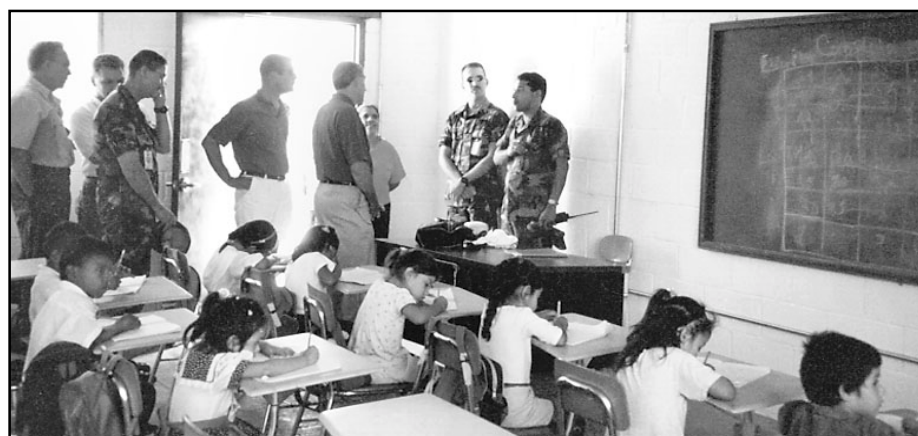
"This is something we want to continue to do," Squier said, "because of its dual effect, it keeps our training skills sharp and also helps to foster a relationship with other democracies around the world in a partnership for a future, free world."



Their patient expressions belie the excitement three Nicaraguan boys have as Wisconsin Guard engineers construct bleachers for a new baseball field in El Hato.



Brig. Gen. Michael Squier, deputy director of the Army National Guard, commends troops for their contributions in Nicaragua. Squier and Maj. Gen. Emilio Diaz-Colon, the adjutant general of Puerto Rico, visited Guard engineers in Sebaco, Nicaragua, in September.



Visitors tour the interior of a new elementary school classroom in El Hato, Nicaragua. Guard engineers from the 264th Engineer Group helped build this school during three two-week rotations during the summer.



The base camp on the grounds of a vacant coffee plantation provided safe, but Spartan, living conditions for members of Task Force Sebaco.



Spec. James Murdock, left, and Spec. Dale Hagen repair M915A1 tractor generators for the 5th Maintenance Company in Kaiserslautern.



In the photo above left, Sgt. Christine Brown inventories protective masks in the 512th Maintenance Company supply room, while above right, while Sgt. Mary Edwards, full time administrative assistant for the 107th, files medical and dental records in the unit orderly room in Mannheim.



Spec. Becky Davison serves lunch at the Spinelli Barracks dining facility.



Have tools, will travel

107th Maintenance deploys to Germany

*Story and Photos
by Julie Friedman
At Ease Staff*

To prepare for the possibility of a real deployment, the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 107th Maintenance Company from Sparta and Viroqua sent 136 soldiers to Germany for a three-week training mission in October.

The 107th was tasked with supporting the 51st Maintenance Battalion, which consists of the 512th and 574th Maintenance Companies in Mannheim and the 5th Maintenance Company in Kaiserslautern. The Guard soldiers helped man the Maintenance Control and Inspection Offices, as well as the various shops for Automotive, Communications/Electronics, Ground Support, and Supply Service Activity.

With 77 members of the unit in Mannheim, and the other 59 living and working about 75 kilometers away in Kaiserslautern, maintaining command and control was a real challenge for company commander Capt. Scott Harold Southworth and his senior leadership.

"Logistically it was very difficult, but if we get deployed we're surely going to have deal with worse things," he said.

Transportation was one of the biggest challenges the unit faced, because there was no housing avail-

able where the soldiers were assigned to work. For example, the soldiers in Mannheim lived at Coleman Barracks, but the shops were located about a 20-minute shuttle bus ride away at another installation called Spinelli Barracks.

During the day the shuttle buses took care of most of the soldiers' needs, but if anyone needed to go to morning sick call, administrative assistant Sgt. Mary Edwards had to get up at 5:30 a.m. to drive them there in one of the company vans. The Troop Medical Clinic was located at Benjamin Franklin Village, yet another installation about 15 kilometers away along a route dotted with construction zones.

The second van was on the road every day going back and forth to Kaiserslautern, a trip that could take anywhere from 45 minutes to 2 hours depending on the traffic.

"There were frustrations of course, but we dealt with it, and I think overall most would agree that the experience was well worth it," Southworth said.

To provide travel opportunities within Europe, Southworth gave each soldier at least one three-day weekend off so they could sign up for organized bus tours or venture out on their own. He also organized two educational outings for the entire company, one to the Auto/Technical Museum in the town of Sinsheim, and another to Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian Alps, where a visit to Hitler's famous Eagle's Nest retreat gave everyone a brief history of the German Army.



Above: Spec. Adam Felber repairs a truck engine in the 512th Maintenance Company's direct support shop in Mannheim.

Left: Pfc. Danee Brinkman, left and Spec. Keri Mueller help the 574th Supply Company conduct a 100 percent inventory at the 71st Map Distribution Platoon warehouse in Mannheim.

Bring your boss to drill weekend

Story and Photos by
Tom Michele
At Ease staff

“I got to pull the lanyard four times,” exclaimed Gary Engler, of St. Cloud, Minn., during a Wisconsin Military Academy field artillery cannon crew member course Aug. 19 at Fort McCoy.

Yanking the cord that shoots the 155 mm, 90-pound projectile over the hill and through the woods is not new to a field artillery soldier.

But for Engler, it was “all new and different. I’ve never seen anything like it. It is very interesting. It is a totally different experience.”

It was different because Engler is the owner and operator of Engler Construction, which builds retail stores nationally.

It was that Engler isn’t a weekend warrior, trading in his coveralls for woodland camouflage.

But one of his employees is.

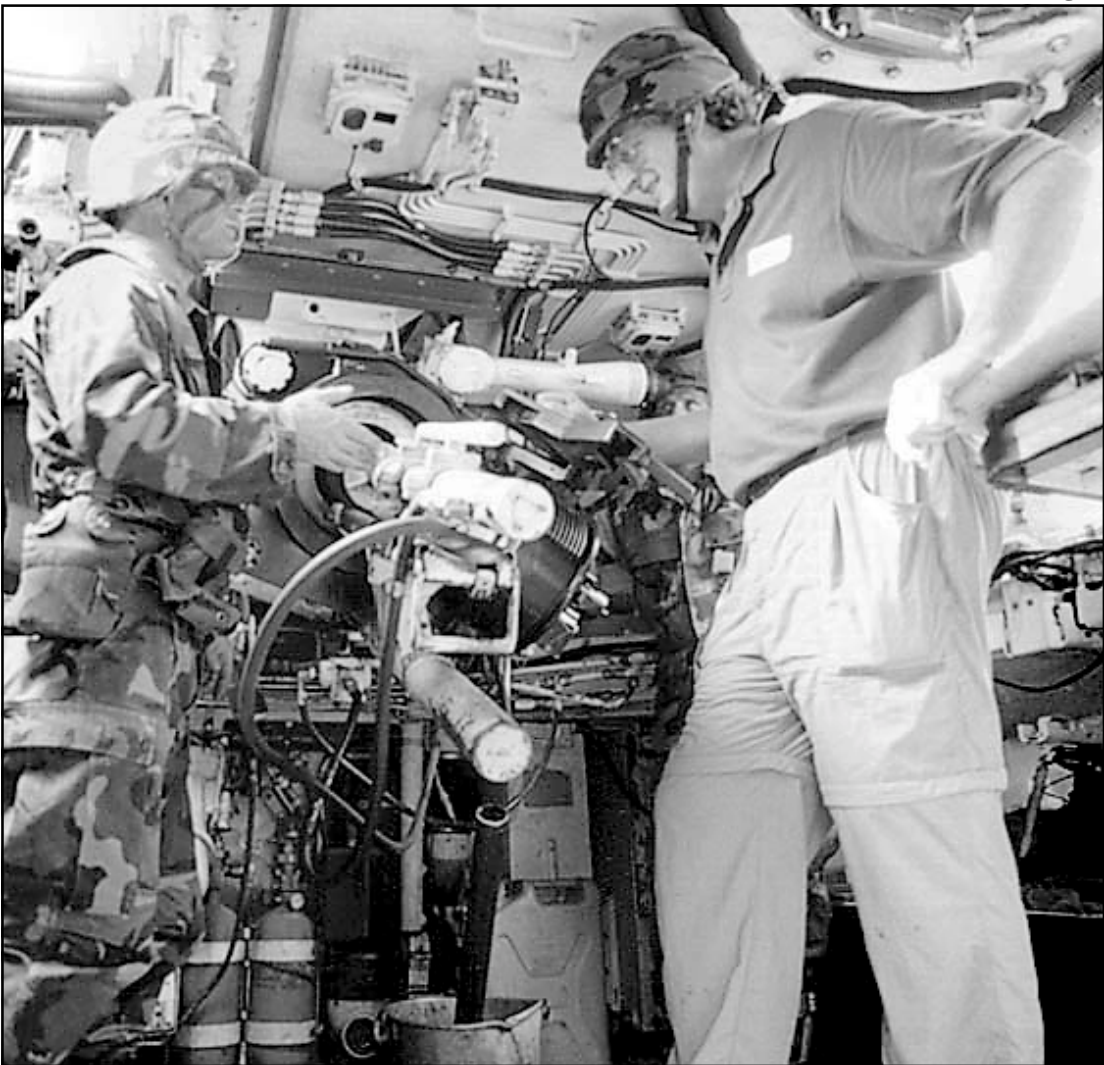
That employee, Staff Sgt. Gerard Stefanick, of Waite Park, Minn., a job site supervisor for Engler’s business and is a cannon crew member instructor at the 426th Leadership Regiment. Stefanick had invited his employer to see what he does while wearing Army green.

Engler accepted Stefanick’s invitation, touring the Ft. McCoy field artillery training site. The Army Guard encourages its members to invite their employers to observe what their soldiers do on those one weekend a month drills.

Stefanick showed Engler how a fuse is attached and set to a projectile, what a bag of powder looks like and the loading and aiming process.

The experience was culminated by pulling the lanyard. Stefanick did have the assistance of his Wisconsin Military Academy field artillery students.

“The whole concept of bringing bosses in to see what their employees do is great,” Engler said.



Staff Sgt. Gerard Stefanick, left, shows Gary Engler how the ramrod of the gun tube works, inside the howitzer turret. Engler was invited to learn about the Guard during a live fire exercise conducted as part of the 426th Leadership Regiment field artillery course at Fort McCoy Aug. 19.

Marksman training keeps soldiers on target

By Brion Aderman
At Ease Staff

Waging war is a serious business.

“We train for war. If we’re in combat, it comes down to who kills who first,” says Master Sgt. Robert Theim, state rifle team coordinator for the Small Arms Readiness Training Section (SARTS), located in the Wisconsin Military Academy at Fort McCoy.

SARTS provides marksmanship, technical, tactical, and range operation instructions. For units deploying on combat missions, the section assists with weapons train-up and qualification. In addition, SARTS runs the Small Arms Firing and Range Operations School and the Basic Sniper School, as well as Combat Rifle, Combat Pistol, and Machine Gun Matches.

The Small Arms Firing and Range Operations School is a week-long course designed to give students a basic knowledge of the various small-arms weapons and teach them how to run a safe, effective range in

which their units can train with those weapons. The course covers the M-16 rifle, M-9 pistol, M-60 machine gun, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), and M-24 (SWS).

“In the past we mostly focused on weapons training; in the future, however, a much greater emphasis will be placed on range training,” said Theim. In the range operation portion of the course, students learn the proper way to run a range, from occupation to clearing procedures.

The other week-long course run by SARTS is the Basic Sniper School. This course helps students understand the role of the sniper in combat, with emphasis on tactics, concealment and movement techniques, ballistics and individual weapon capabilities.

“We provide students with an understanding of the technical aspects of being a sniper,” Theim said, “and introduce a basic understanding of what the physical demands of a sniper entail.”

The culmination of the course is the State Sniper Com-

petition, which pits the students against other Guard members throughout the state. Students who successfully complete the course receive the Sniper Skill Indicator. SARTS is also developing a pre-sniper school orientation course.

Combat imposes unique stresses difficult to recreate in a traditional weapons range. SARTS Combat Rifle and Pistol Matches are designed to test soldiers under these conditions. Participants must accurately engage targets after a physically demanding two-mile run. Some

matches also require soldiers to perform diverse tasks throughout the stages of the event, such as torso or head shots in one- or two-shot discharges.

“The matches help improve a soldier’s survivability,” Theim says, “by enabling him or her to quickly and accurately engage the enemy, change from one target to the next, and even change from one point on a target to another point on the same target.”

SARTS also hosts a Machine Gun Match, Air Rifle/Pistol Matches, and the Governor’s

Trophy match, held each year in Madison. SARTS has one priority in mind: making the soldier a better marksman. Those skills, while essential in combat, benefit the soldier in peacetime as well.

“We try to emphasize how important marksmanship is with the enlisted promotion system,” Theim adds. “Expert qualification adds 75 points, sharpshooter adds 50 points, and marksman adds 25. The 50-point difference between expert and marksman can make a huge difference in promotion potential.”

Staff positions available at Badger Challenge

Badger Challenge, the Wisconsin National Guard’s program for at-risk youths ages 14 to 16, is gearing up for its tenth class and is looking for a few good men and women with military backgrounds to serve as instructors and role models.

The six-week residential phase of the program will be held at Fort McCoy July 8 through Aug. 19, 2001. Guard members who want to make a difference in the life of a young person at a formative period of life are encouraged to ap-

ply. Instructors, counselors, senior team leaders, team leaders, lead medic and medic are among the job descriptions available.

Past Badger Challenge Cadets and their parents have given high praise to the program for its ability to change the direction of a young person’s life from negative to positive in a dramatic way. To inquire about serving on the staff of this remarkable program, call (608) 269-8354 or go to the Badger Challenge Web site, www.badgerchallenge.com.

New recruiting tools on wheels



They can maneuver over rocky hills, through deep sand and mud, in water up to 60 inches deep, in desert heat and arctic cold. They are High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) and the Wisconsin Army National Guard’s recruiting team had the idea to transform four HMMWVs into a moving advertisement for the Guard. The slogans “Free College Tuition”, “1-800-GO-GUARD” and “www.wisconsinnguard.com” are decaled on each of the vehicles. Recruiters throughout the state are encouraged to take these HMMWVs when visiting a school or attending an event. The vehicles will also be used in parades, static displays, and county fairs. In less than 24 hours the decals can be removed and the HMMWVs will be ready for combat.



1st Lt. Kathleen Burke tests a set of robotic looking M972HD Night Vision Goggles during a night exercise at Chile's Santa Maria Training Area. Burke, a physician's assistant assigned to 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, was part of a Small Unit Exchange between Wisconsin and Chile which took place from 5 to 18 November and consisted of 37 members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard training in Chile and 40 members of Ejército de Chile training at Fort McCoy.



Training at the e

Wisconsin inf

trains in sou

Story and photos by Gina Marie Williams
At Ease staff

Last-minute Spanish lessons occupied much of the travel time from Milwaukee to Dallas for 37 soldiers of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry as they set off to South America for two weeks of training.

But, after five power outages in the Dallas airport subway, four South American airports and an additional two hour bus ride to arrive at Santa Maria, Chile near Antarctica, they were finally immersed in a two week crash course in Spanish and military tactics, taught by Ejército de Chile's V Division, 10th Infantry Regiment.

The Wisconsin Guard soldiers deployed to the Santa Maria Mechanized Training Area from Nov. 5 to 18 for training and division live fire as an attachment to the V Division as part of a Small Unit Exchange (SMU). This is the first time a SMU has ever been conducted between Chile and Wisconsin.

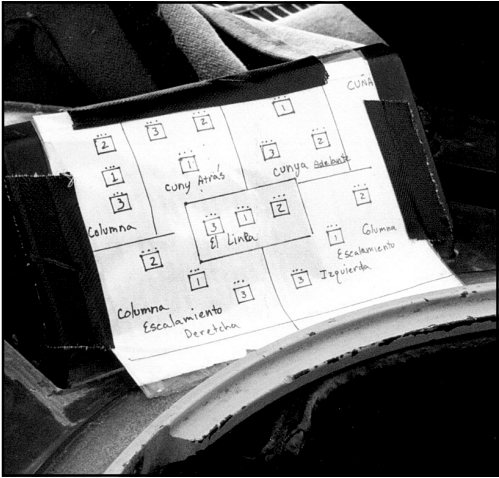
At the same time, 40 members of Chile's 10th Infantry Regiment deployed to Fort McCoy to conduct lanes training and weapons familiarization.

Many of Wisconsin's soldiers in Chile didn't know what to expect. When they arrived at Santa Maria, they found that it had no telephones, no mail service, no toilet paper, no FM radio and no electricity after midnight.

The road into the area also had fences marked to indicate where the live mine fields are located. Only Chile's ostrich-like Ñandu dares to tread there without setting off the mines.

Safety was a key issue at all times. One training maneuver was moved to a different location because of unexploded ordnance from previous artillery exercises.

"It's been enlightening," said Sgt. Tim Smith, who acted as an armored personnel carrier (APC) com-



Above: This cheat sheet written in Spanish was devised by a non-Spanish speaking soldier of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry as a way to relate commands in Spanish to tactical formations.

Left: Soldiers of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry disembark from an Italian made M113-A2 armored personnel carrier at Chile's Santa Maria Training Area during the Small Unit Exchange between Wisconsin and Chile.



Soldiers of Co. A, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, familiarize themselves with Chilean-manufactured sub machineguns on the small arms range at Chile's Santa Maria Training Area in November.

mander during the exchange. "This is good country for 'TOW's and tracks because the hills provide good cover. You'll hear the carriers, but you won't see them. I also like the familiarization with the different key weapons."

From almost any angle on the crew-served weapons range, the soldiers could see the waters from the Strait of Magellan only a few yards away and the island Tierra del Fuego in the distance. The Chileans considered temperatures in the 30s and winds at 20 miles-an-hour as good weather for a spring day in their country.

"We weren't really sure what to bring or what the terrain was going to be like," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Zimmerman. "Next time, I'll bring aloe for windburn. My face was raw and it really sucked trying to shave. Try to learn a little more Spanish before you come down here or wing it like Sgt. Smith and add 'o' to every word."

Before deployment, the soldiers were instructed to bring SPF 100 sunscreen and 100 percent UV eye protection because of the thin Antarctic ozone layer. Goggles were preferred because of the dusty terrain.

The soldiers were also issued brown cold weather shirts nicknamed "bear suits" as protection from the cold.

"We were told to bring mosquito nets but there's no mosquitoes," said Zimmerman. "It's



Sgt. Thomas Shuh of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, writes Stars and Stripes for a departing member of the exchange. Chilean soldiers completed their training

Edge of the earth

Infantry platoon

from southern Chile

the opposite of Fort McCoy.

All of the technical and tactical classes at Santa Maria were presented in Spanish. At the beginning of classes, the Wisconsin Guard soldiers relied heavily on translators, but as the day went on, they began to rely less on translators and relate in what one soldier called ‘Language of the Infantry.’”

“The Chilean-made SAF is like our MP5,” said Spc. Joe Meier. “It’s the coolest thing you ever want to fire.”

In the language of the infantry, the SAF’s “1.300 tiros por minuto” still equal 1,300 rounds per minute, and 9 mm still equals 9 mm.

The soldiers also related the Spanish made MG-3 to the American M-60 machine gun and were impressed that the Chileans also had the same MK-19 and .50 caliber Browning machine guns as the United States.

“The big thing this exercise does is give our soldiers the opportunity to see how Chile’s technical skills and tactics work,” said Lt. Col. Dan Jensen, battalion commander. “It gives them the opportunity to see how another country’s military works, and it gives another country an opportunity to see our capability and what the Guard can do. It also gives the soldiers another piece of terrain to train on. Working in different parts of the world gives them challenges in maneuvering.”



2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry autographs the commander of the Chilean army regiment as the unit departs Fort McCoy in November.

Chilean company commander, Capt. Rafael Mesa, also agreed that the SMU benefits the soldiers and helps them maintain current technical skills.

“Modernization is important in Chile, and it’s necessary to protect our form of land,” said Mesa. “This interchange has gone very well for my soldiers and the American soldiers. This is the first time working with the American soldiers and I’m very impressed with the tactical and technical training. I believe the direction of the U.S. soldiers is very good.”

A cultural exchange was also emphasized in addition to the mounted attacks and battle drills.

The Guard members had time to see civilization outside of Santa Maria, such as Punta Arenas, the southernmost city in the world. In exchange, the Chilean soldiers learned Fútbol Americano.

“They didn’t know what it was,” said Sgt. Dan Baumann, who served as an APC squad leader during the exchange. “They held it, looked at it, and started kicking it like a soccer ball. I took a group of conscript soldiers and taught them how to do a three point stance, how to pass and formations.”

After the coaching session, approximately 40 conscripts had switched from playing soccer to American football that day.

The immersion into the Chilean military culture expanded the Guards members’ vocabulary past “dos cervezas por favor,” to “columna escalamiento derecha” for echalon right and “sub-ametrilladora” for sub-machine gun. Even platoon leader, 1st Lt. Shane Dana, briefed operations orders in English with Spanish intermixed.

“I learned how to say ‘20 push ups’ in Spanish,” said Baumann.



Soldiers of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry march in formation with Swiss manufactured automatic rifles, which are standard issue at Chile’s Santa Maria Training Area and were used during the Small Unit Exchange between Wisconsin and Chile in November. The unit exchange, which was the first between Wisconsin and Chile, consisted of 37 members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard training in Chile and 40 members of Ejército de Chile training at Fort McCoy.

Chilean troops train at McCoy

When 40 members of Chile’s armed forces deployed more than 6,700 miles to Wisconsin’s Fort McCoy for two weeks of mechanized infantry training, they also deployed two seasons back in time, exchanging a South American spring for North American snow and subfreezing temperatures.

“For us to come out of Chile is something we don’t always have the chance to do,” said Sub-Teniente (2nd Lt.) Claudio Oyarzún of Temuco, Chile. Oyarzún describes own hometown as “kind of like Wisconsin with no trees. Farms, but no cheese,” he said. Chile, like Wisconsin, also has no poisonous snakes.

The training at Fort McCoy was an opportunity for the Chileans to learn how the Wisconsin Army National Guard works, both tactically and technically. Members of the 127th and 128th Infantry, along with volunteer guides and translators made the training a success.

“The communications barrier is a challenge, but you see that they do the same thing but with a different attitude” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Pearl, an instructor at Fort McCoy’s Guardfist II interactive field artillery simulator. “This block of instruction is a week-long, and they’re trying to do it in four hours. Basically, what it is does is give them a practice of the battle and they have artillery at their service.”

Map reading for the exercise was new to some of the Chileans and a perished skill for others but experienced soldiers helped them pinpoint their targets and locations.

“I thought they caught on really well,” said Tam Brieske, an instructor at Guardfist II and the engagement skills trainer. “When they call for fire and when they call a grid I have to punch it in, so they have to translate.”

The Chileans also trained on platoon assault lanes, squad ambushes, and operating M113 A3 armored personnel carriers, an upgrade from the M113 A2s currently used in Chile.

In addition to different small arms, the Chileans learned that training techniques are also different. When a white light was used to call a cease fire at night due to a safety issue, the Chileans kept training. “I thought the enemy was giving up,” said Oyarzún, during the after action review (AAR). Oyarzún also stated that there wasn’t enough planning time to prepare for the mission.

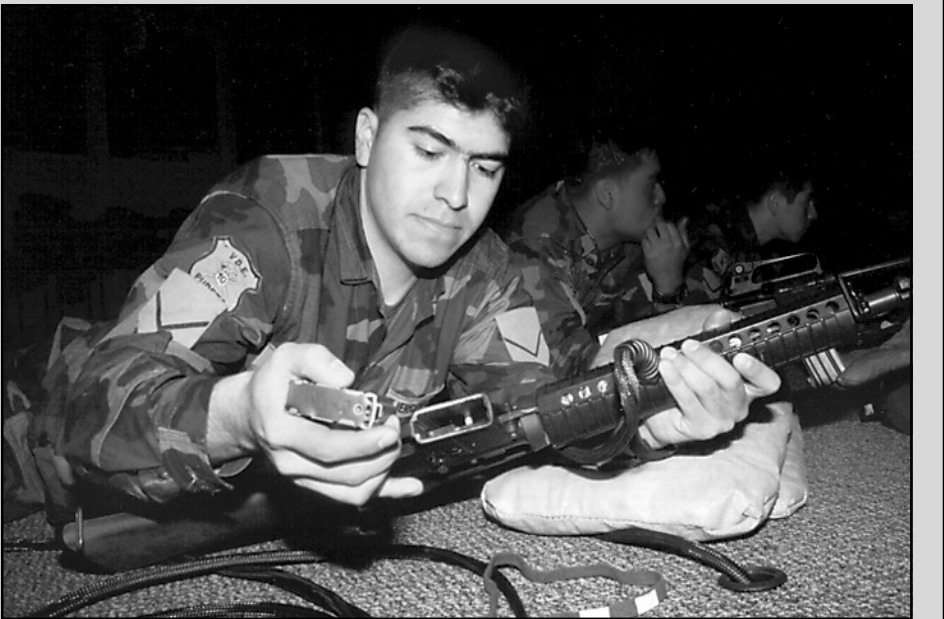
“Welcome to the U.S. Army,” was the AAR facilitator’s response. “There’s not always enough time to plan.”

During the AAR the Chileans also thanked Company A, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry for being the first opposing force they’ve ever trained against and nicknamed them “La Ultima OPFOR.”

Some outdoor training events were cancelled due to icy weather but morale remained high as Chileans smiled with draped belts of M-60 ammunition over their shoulders at the

machine gun range. A few soldiers A few soldiers qualified on the M-16 rifle and received medals. To complete the cultural exchange, the soldiers visited the State Capitol and Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison.

“I enjoyed the capital city,” said Suboficial Andres Araya Pinto, who also had a chance to meet relatives who live in Madison. “It’s very tranquil; very modern. The modernization is very different, but I liked most the different modern cars. They’re faster here.



Cabo Segundo Alejandro Robles prepares his M16A2 at Fort McCoy’s Skills Engagement Training facility.



These Chilean soldiers awoke in the field to find their first American snowfall at Fort McCoy. The soldiers said that the winters in Chile can be colder with more wind, but Wisconsin has more snow.

WMA Hall of Fame has 6 new members

*By Tom Michele
At Ease staff*

Six Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers joined the Wisconsin Military Academy Hall of Fame at the second annual induction ceremony Aug. 19 at Fort McCoy.

The year 2000 inductees were retired Brig. Gens. Richard I. Braund and Gerald Matteson, Col. Donald Whitwam, Capt. Toni L. Harvey, Chief Warrant Officer Donald Summers and Master Sgt. Claire Ness.

The academy's hall of fame was created to perpetuate the memory and accomplishments of people who made significant contributions since the academy was established in 1958.

Braund was commandant of the academy, which, during his tenure, doubled the number of courses conducted. He devel-

oped a highly aggressive recruiting program that increased OCS enrollment 35 percent and NCO enrollment 18 percent. Braund died Sept. 26 from injuries following an accident.

Matteson is regarded as the best recruiter the WMA OCS program ever had. Once a soldier was enrolled, he mentored them continually to ensure everything was "on track." In 1984, he became the eighth commandant at WMA. Dedication, devotion to duty and an untiring pursuit in helping each soldier reach their potential will serve as his legacy.

Whitwam was a 32nd Division veteran of World War II who was first assigned to the academy in 1958. He served as WMA commandant until September 1968 when he became director of military personnel for the Wisconsin Army Guard. His award was accepted by his

widow, Lorraine Whitwam.

Harvey was an original member of the WMA staff and he wrote the original TAC officer manual in 1958. It became the "Bible" of how a TAC officer should look, perform and behave.

His widow, Muriel Harvey, accepted his award.

Summers was the OCS annual training maintenance officer for 15 years. His section was made up of soldiers who were unable to perform at their parent unit. He saw this as an opportunity to mold these soldiers into a positive team and have them perform to standard.

Ness was the senior NCO on the staff from 1977 to 1980. His leadership skills were never more evident than during the transition from an advanced non-commissioned officer schoolhouse to an officer candidate school non-commissioned officer schoolhouse.



Pictured at the Hall of Fame induction program Aug. 19 at the Wisconsin Military Academy are, from left, seated, Muriel Harvey accepting the plaque for her late husband, Capt. Toni Harvey, and Lorraine Whitwam, accepting the plaque for her late husband, Col. Donald Whitwam. Standing, Brig. Gen. Richard Braund, Brig. Gen. Gerald Matteson, Chief Warrant Officer Donald Summers and Master Sgt. Claire Ness. Photo by Tom Michele.



Miss America Heather French prepares for her first trip on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. French was in Wisconsin in September to address veterans groups about the plight of homeless veterans and was flown to Fort McCoy by 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation. As the daughter of a disabled Vietnam veteran, she has used her position as Miss America to advocate for homeless veterans. French's reign recently concluded when a new Miss America was crowned on Oct. 14. Photo by Gregory Senn.

Wisconsin Guard program offers leadership, education benefits

*By Lisa Munson
At Ease staff*

The Wisconsin National Guard has found a way to give college students even more educational benefits. In addition to the 100-percent tuition reimbursement, Montgomery GI Bill, and monthly drill pay, there is even more money available.

The program is called the Simultaneous Membership Program, and it's the result of a partnership between the National Guard and UW-Madison's Army ROTC department.

SMP is designed for the cadet to serve the military part time while attending college full time.

SMP combines the academics of ROTC with the real world experience of the National Guard. Eventually, the cadet will become an officer in either the regular Army or the National Guard.

"This program is the Guard's best kept secret. We're the only branch of service that does this program," said Sgt. 1st Class Sam White, the SMP recruiting specialist for State Area Command headquarters.

Army ROTC is the nation's largest leadership development program. It's offered at 275 col-

leges across the country. These leadership and management skills are highly sought by Fortune 500 companies.

To qualify, a soldier must be currently serving in the Army National Guard. Also, the soldier must be at least a junior at a college or university that has an Army ROTC program. SMP is a two-year commitment beginning in the cadet's junior year at school.

SMP cadets attend monthly drills at a local unit as officer trainees while studying military science in Army ROTC during the school week.

"The program helps you dedicate yourself to the Guard and your schooling so you can be a better student, soldier and officer," said White.

This is how the program works. Once students become juniors, they sign a two-year SMP contract. They will also have an opportunity to sign a Guaranteed Reserve Force Duty contract, which will allow them to serve in the Guard or reserve rather than on active duty.

During the cadets' first year, they attend physical training three mornings a week, one two-hour class a week, and one two-hour lab a week. On top of that, there are volunteer activities offered throughout the year.

Between junior and senior

year, cadets attend a six-week leadership program at Fort Lewis, Wash.

The next year, as seniors, the cadets assume leadership positions and help design the weekly schedule. Once cadets graduate, they have one year to complete an officer basic course for their branch.

Once soldiers sign the SMP contract, they are no longer enlisted soldiers; they are officers-in-training.

At monthly drills, cadets wear ROTC rank, and the unit provides leadership positions for the cadets.

"The program is designed to dedicate more specific attention to officers in training," said White.

SMP cadets receive 100 percent tuition reimbursement every semester, drill pay at the E-5 grade level, the Montgomery GI Bill every month while attending college, and an ROTC stipend of \$200 a month. Some may also be eligible for a \$350 bonus, depending on the type of unit.

During the two-year program, the total education benefits exceed \$40,000. In addition to all the financial benefits, ROTC classes count towards any college degree.

With funding available in this program, all the cadet has to worry about is simply getting the degree and getting up for classes on time.

Wisconsin teams compete in Guard shooting competition

*By Howard Martin and Sara Launius
Arkansas National Guard*

The best combat shooters in the Army and Air National Guard from Wisconsin and 45 other states competed for top honors during the 30th annual Winston P. Wilson Rifle, Pistol, Sniper, and Light Machine gun Championship Matches held at Camp Robinson, Ark., Oct. 14-21.

This year, 726 competitors vied for the distinction of "Best of the Best" in four different shooting disciplines. The WPW Matches are conducted by the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center.

Capt. J.R. Treharne of the Wisconsin National Guard, who was shooting in his eighth WPW competition, said, "Anyone can be a winner by putting in time and effort to achieve their goals. It's hard for traditional Guard members to practice because of work and family life."

"Practice as much as possible," he said. "If you practice the Close Quarter Battle and Excellence in Competition courses of fire, you can shoot just about anything."

The WPW matches promote marksmanship by providing high-level training

and competition among states. Particular emphasis is devoted to improving individual battle-focused "move and shoot" combat marksmanship skills.

The matches have evolved over the years to reflect realistic training, team spirit, physical fitness and leadership qualities of Army and Air National Guard participants.

The Wilson matches are named for Maj. Gen. Winston P. Wilson, former chief of National Guard Bureau and a member of the Arkansas National Guard.

Members of the Wisconsin team included:

Rifle: Sgt. Ronald Cottone, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Janke, Staff Sgt. Bradley Lawler, Sgt. Timothy O'Hare, Sgt. Ronald Sallis, Pfc. Brandon Skrzpchar, Capt. J.R. Treharne, Sgt. Paul Wagner.

Light Machine gun: Cpl. Kenneth Prieur, Staff Sgt. Christopher Reynolds.

Pistol: Staff Sgt. William Burant, Spc. Thomas Grant, Spc. Ritchie Greening, Master Sgt. William Rogge, Sgt. Randy L. Sickles, Master Sgt. Robert Theim, Sgt. Ty Thomas, Staff Sgt. Tony Totzke.

Sniper: Cpl. Jason Nigbor, Spc. Leonard Rader.



Wisconsin Army National Guard Capt. J.R. Treharne prepares to reload his M-16 during rifle competition at the Winston P. Wilson championship matches held at Camp Robinson, Ark., in October.

Hickam AFB police work goes to dogs; 128th air cops work with K-9 heroes

By Staff Sgt. Becky McCauley
128th Air Refueling Wing

Tech. Sgt. Jim Horne and Staff Sgt. Darren Picard of the 128th Security Forces Squadron participated in training with Air Force military working dogs on Oct. 6 while deployed to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. They took part in demonstration/training of dogs with subjects.

Staff Sgt. McGowan Anderson and Staff Sgt. Cheryl Fuller of the 15th Security Forces Squadron, K-9 section, provided the training. Military working dog Tosca was the dog used in the training. The NCOIC and kennel master is Tech. Sgt. Shirley Gayenell.

There are five dogs assigned, all of which are dual certified in patrol and detection. Two of the dogs are trained in narcotics detection and the other three are trained in explosives detection. The dogs are trained at Lackland Air Force Base over a 3-month period. The handlers are security forces personnel who also attend a 3-month training course at Lackland AFB. The Air

Force and the Navy share the training area.

Recently, the dogs competed in the 14th annual Hawaiian Islands K-9 competition, which included the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. It also included outside agencies such as the Sheriff's Department, Honolulu Police Department, U.S. Customs and F.A.A. Hickam's dogs took first place in 4 of 5 events. The events included explosives, scouting, patrol capabilities, obedience, and obstacle course. One of their handlers, Sr. Airman Tara Corse, was named top dog handler with her dog Nero. Hickam also took the award for Top Kennel for the first time in 14 years, breaking the Marine Corps' 10-year winning streak.

The extensive training has proven successful, as the narcotics dogs have had at least one drug find each this year. The explosive detection dogs have also been put to work.

Hickam has had over 17 bomb threats so far in 2000. The dogs also help with events such as presidential visits.



Tech. Sgt. Jim Horne is shown training with an Air Force working dog during the 128th Security Forces Squadron deployment to Hawaii in October. Photo by Staff Sgt. Becky McCauley.

Deployed security force troops visit USS Arizona Memorial

By Wayne J. Rodriguez
128th Air Refueling Wing

No trip to Hawaii could be complete without a visit to one of the most sacred historical sites in America, the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

Many members of the security force squadron visited this site during their stay in Hawaii; and it was a very emotional trip.

Japanese bombers sank the USS Arizona (BB-39), a 30,000-ton battleship, during the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. When the mighty battleship went down she took with her 1,177 of her crew.

You begin your visit at the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center, which houses the museum room where many artifacts recovered from the USS Arizona are on display. Some of these

include one of the anchors and the ship's bell.

Your visit includes watching a video presentation that tells the story of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

On the day this reporter and Staff Sgt. Becky McCauley visited the memorial, retired U.S. Army Capt. Robert Kinzler, who was a 19-year-old private stationed at Schofield Barracks on that infamous day, was one of the volunteer guides.

After watching the video, we boarded a shuttlecraft that took us to the memorial. The memorial sits atop a portion of the sunken battleship. A marble wall in the Shrine Room on the memorial lists the names of the Arizona's 1,177 crewmen killed.

Docked near the USS Arizona is the battleship Missouri (BB-63).

As the last United States battleship to be commissioned, the Missouri's most famous moment came when the Japanese formally surrendered aboard her in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945.

Now, visitors to Pearl Harbor can visit two of the most significant sites of the Pacific war hostilities – the "Beginning" at battleship row" with its memorial to the USS Arizona and the "End" aboard the 887-foot battleship Missouri.

The Missouri saw action during the Korean War and was decommissioned in 1955. In 1986 she was recommissioned and saw action during Operation Desert Storm, this time firing Tomahawk missiles and her massive 16-inch guns at Iraqi targets during the liberation of Kuwait.



One of the most sacred historical memorials in America sits atop the sunken USS Arizona. The battleship was sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, which resulted in the deaths of 1,177 sailors. Photo by Wayne J. Rodriguez.

Runway opens...jets return



Airport, county and airline officials cut a ribbon to open the north-south runway at the Dane County Regional Airport in late October following about six months of reconstruction. The construction forced the 115th Fighter Wing to move its flying operations to Volk Field. Madison's F-16 fighters returned later the same day and resumed flying operations from Truax Field.

1157th Transportation Co. wins supply excellence award

The 1157th Transportation Company, Oshkosh, was one of 43 active, Army Reserve and National Guard units awarded a 2000 Army Supply Excellence Award by Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, on Aug. 31.

The 1157th ranked second in the Army Guard in the Modification Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) company with property book category.

Sgt. Roger Cutts, unit supply NCO, accepted the unit plaque at the afternoon ceremony in Arlington, Va., and received an individual plaque from the Army Quartermaster General and Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, during the evening banquet.

The 1157th first won a regional competition and was selected by Guard Bureau. The selection process included an in-depth evaluation and a three-hour

on-site evaluation by a team chosen by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School.

The annual supply awards program was created in 1986 to enhance logistical readiness, enforce command supply discipline and recognize group and individual supply initiatives.

Wisconsin Army Guard units have done well in the Supply Excellence Award competition in recent years. In 1998, the 1st Battalion, 632nd Armor won. In 1999, Company B, 118th Medical was the winner and 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery the runner-up in their respective categories.

Cutts isn't resting on his laurels. The 1157th was submitted for the fiscal year 2001 competition and, along with the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office and 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry has already been selected to represent the region.

Guard sax players teach kids to ‘reed’

By Gina Marie Williams
At Ease staff

When the Kettle Moraine High School Band sent out an SOS, the 132nd Army National Guard Band responded, not with disaster relief but with its own “Soldiers-of-Sax.”

The assistance took the form of a saxophone clinic at the high school auditorium on Oct. 21 and a joint concert with the Army band and high school students the following day.

The Soldiers-of-Sax, a nine member team led by Staff Sgt. Harry Hindson, who is also a professor of woodwind instruments at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, worked side by side with students, coaching them on playing techniques, articulating and physiology. Hindson also included history and musical trivia behind the featured compositions.

By the end of the clinic, students were able to read sheet music as a map, where key changes in music became easy lane changes on the road.

“I learned a lot about saxophone music,” said Bryan Goodman, a senior at Kettle Moraine H.S. “They’re probably the best saxophone ensemble I’ve heard, especially Dr. [Staff Sgt.] Hindson, he’s incredible. I’ve never heard a saxophone choir or how great the sound could be.”

Megen Leef, a junior who also plays flute, clarinet and tenor sax, gained usable skills from the clinic. “I’ve learned what to do with your reeds and how to

fix them so they sound better,” she said.

James P. Krofta, director of bands at Kettle Moraine High School, explained the long-range benefits of the clinic: “It lets students know that there is a musical life outside of high school. It gives us a chance to talk to the kids about camaraderie in other bands they’ll meet, whether they join a college band or play in other groups.”

Music clinics also generate a different exposure for the Guard. “It’s great exposure for the guard in a positive way,” said Staff Sgt. Adair Sexton. “It shows that there’s a lot more to the Guard than people think. It’s a really unique way to serve. Usually we try to do one clinic a year and it’s not just saxophone. At events like this, the kids are more likely to continue a music education.”

Leef said she enjoys playing many different styles of music and although she’s not looking specifically to join the Army, she is looking to major in music in college.

First Sgt. David Johnson said that some referrals for the Army band come from high school counselors but most are from live performances. “People will walk right up to us after a performance and ask about auditions,” said Johnson.

“This is a life changing event,” said Krofta. The 132nd has some great players. They’re nice to the kids, and the kids also learn that the Guard can help pay for college tuition.”

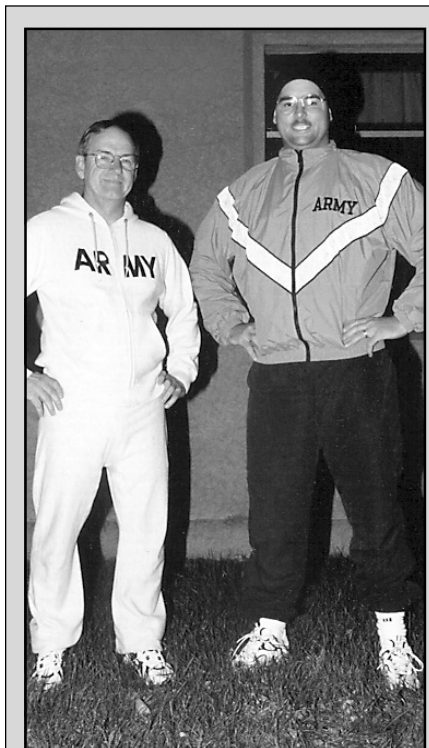


Sgt. Chad Stormoen and Kettle Moraine sophomore Chris Whettstine practice intently.



Above: Sgt. Nichole Clay shows Kettle Moraine sophomore Dan Rusk a key point in the music.

Left: 1st Sgt. David Johnson signals for Kettle Moraine sophomores Chris Whettstine and Becky Janiuk to hold notes.



Chief Warrant Officer Gordon Fick (left) sports his old Army issued Physical Training uniform. Sgt. Anthony Coman (right) models his new Army PT uniform. Both soldiers are members of the 107th Maintenance Company, GSE and CE Platoon. The new PT uniform was first available in October. Photo by Julie Friedman.

Selective Service detachment helps ensure our military manpower pool

By Gina Marie Williams
At Ease Staff

Selective Service is often advertised as a legal responsibility, but in actuality, it’s an opportunity for young men to contribute to the least expensive insurance policy America has against future conflicts.

“Selective Service is the third line of defense,” said Lt. Col. Bruce Munson, Commander, Selective Service Detachment, Headquarters State Area Command. “The active duty and the Guard and reserves are the first two, but the line between the first two is becoming more blurred. As the third line of defense, Selective Service is the unmobilized manpower of the U.S. and we maintain the ability to tap into that potential manpower.”

The yearly cost of maintaining the Selective Service system is \$23.5 million. According to John C. Cumicek, Wisconsin State Director of Selective Service, this is a small budget compared to other government agencies. The Selective Service registration rate in Wisconsin is approximately 90 percent when compared with compliance rates of other government agencies.

“There’s still room for improvement,” said Cumicek. “The further we are from war, the less this country’s people think about it. That’s why we’re pushing for registration.”

Although applying for the new Selective Service is more convenient than ever through the Post Office and the Internet, public perception of the old draft has to be updated.

“One big change is, in the old days it was a big stick felony for not registering and you could go to jail,” said Munson. “We still have a big stick but we’re withholding a very large carrot instead. Some states will also bar you from state employment.”

“It’s my concern that we’re not reaching some of the young men who are disaffected from public institutions such as schools. My concern is that there are young men who will go through their 20’s in a marginal job, and when they decide to improve their opportunities and go to trade schools and apply for financial aid, they’re forever foreclosed from getting the aid. They are the ones who either drop out of school or are angry with school.”

Munson added that those in the mainstream are automatically enrolled in Selective Service when they apply for financial aid and that legislators are still developing ways to make enrollment more accessible, such as automatic enrollment when applying for a driver’s license.

Citizenship may also be at stake for some who don’t register.

“You must be registered by age 25,” said Cumicek. “If you want to register at age 26 you can’t do so. You don’t have to be a U.S. citizen to register but you cannot become a citizen if you are not registered. If you’re here in the U.S. you have to register.”

According to Cumicek, the new selection system is also more equitable and strict than the old draft system with the help of Guard run Selective Service Detachments and federally appointed board members.

“Our mission is to make sure Selective Service Boards are fully staffed and fully trained every year and maintain public awareness of registration requirements, plus Guard members still have to maintain soldiering skills,” said Munson. “We do this by making appearances at Badger Boys State, the School Counselor Association and the state Teachers’ convention. Trained members are prepared to open local offices if the need arises for an actual call up.”

“There would be a national lottery determining when people would be called up, said Cumicek. “The date is dependent on a person’s birth year consisting of 365 days. The person wouldn’t be called up until the 20th birthday. It’s better to register and serve, but the chances of being called up are very slim. It’s the least expensive insurance policy we have against unforeseen threat.”

Drill pay to increase Jan. 1

National Guard and Reserve members will receive a 3.7 percent increase in drill pay effective Jan. 1, 2001. The rates shown are for a normal weekend of four training assemblies.

	Years of Service														
	< 2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Commissioned Officers															
O-10	1135.84	1175.80	1175.80	1175.80	1175.80	1220.92	1220.92	1288.56	1288.56	1380.80	1380.80	1473.24	1480.52	1511.28	1564.96
O-9	1006.68	1033.04	1055.04	1055.04	1055.04	1081.88	1081.88	1126.88	1126.88	1220.92	1220.92	1288.56	1307.12	1333.96	1380.80
O-8	911.76	941.64	961.40	966.96	991.64	1033.04	1042.64	1081.88	1093.16	1126.88	1175.80	1220.92	1251.04	1251.04	1251.04
O-7	757.64	809.12	809.12	815.00	845.44	868.60	895.40	922.12	948.92	1033.04	1104.12	1104.12	1104.12	1104.12	1104.12
O-6	561.52	616.88	657.36	657.36	659.88	688.12	691.88	691.88	714.76	800.72	841.52	882.32	905.52	929.04	929.04
O-5	449.16	527.32	563.84	570.72	593.40	593.40	611.24	644.24	687.44	730.88	751.60	772.04	795.28	795.28	795.28
O-4	378.56	460.96	491.72	498.60	527.12	550.36	587.96	617.24	637.56	658.00	664.88	664.88	664.88	664.88	664.88
O-3	351.76	398.80	430.40	465.24	487.52	511.96	532.36	558.64	572.28	572.28	572.28	572.28	572.28	572.28	572.28
O-2	306.80	349.44	402.48	416.04	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64	424.64
O-1	266.36	277.20	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04	335.04
Officers with more than four years as enlisted or warrant officer															
O-3E				465.24	487.52	511.96	532.36	558.64	580.76	593.40	610.72	610.72	610.72	610.72	610.72
O-2E				416.04	424.64	438.12	460.96	478.60	491.72	491.72	491.72	491.72	491.72	491.72	491.72
O-1E				335.04	357.88	371.08	384.56	397.88	416.04	416.04	416.04	416.04	416.04	416.04	416.04
Warrant Officers															
W-5												618.76	640.00	661.32	682.68
W-4	358.40	385.56	396.64	407.56	426.32	444.84	463.60	481.88	500.84	519.00	537.60	555.76	574.60	593.12	612.12
W-3	325.76	353.32	353.32	357.88	372.52	389.20	411.24	424.64	439.28	456.04	472.68	489.32	505.96	522.64	539.36
W-2	285.28	308.68	308.68	318.80	335.04	353.32	366.76	380.20	393.28	407.76	422.60	437.44	452.24	467.12	467.12
W-1	237.68	272.52	272.52	295.28	308.68	322.56	336.44	350.24	364.20	378.12	392.00	402.48	402.48	402.48	402.48
Enlisted															
E-9							416.92	426.32	438.28	452.32	466.40	480.24	499.04	517.68	541.44
E-8						349.60	359.72	369.12	380.44	392.68	405.48	418.40	437.08	455.64	481.68
E-7	244.16	266.56	276.68	286.64	296.96	307.08	317.20	327.32	337.28	347.60	357.84	367.84	385.44	404.60	433.40
E-6	210.00	232.04	242.32	252.24	262.60	272.80	283.04	292.92	303.00	310.36	315.72	315.72	316.04	316.04	316.04
E-5	184.24	206.56	216.52	226.80	237.04	247.44	257.40	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72	267.72
E-4	171.84	189.84	200.08	210.16	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40	220.40
E-3	161.96	174.28	184.48	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72	184.72
E-2	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88	155.88
E-1	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04	139.04
E-1 with less than four months: 124.04															

New medallions awarded to 128th refuelers

By Master Sgt. Ken Atha
128th Air Refueling Wing

Three unit members have received the 128th Air Refueling Wing's new award, the Safety Medallion. Master Sgts. Jim Dagenhardt, Don Larsen, and Joe Parlato were recognized for their outstanding contribution to safety.

The award may be given for efforts in safety such as hazard recognition, mishap prevention, or lifesaving efforts.

The award may be either an immediate recognition or candidates may be nominated. The wing commander, or wing safety staff on behalf of the commander, presents the medallion.

The medallion is bronze, highlighted with red and white, with the state outline and the unit aircraft on the front with cir-

cumference wording "128th Air Refueling Wing — Making Safety a Way of Life." On the back is the minuteman emblem with circumference wording "Presented by the Wing Commander."

Recipients of the Safety Medallion will also be listed on a roster in order of receipt stating their contribution and have their names placed on the Safety Medallion Plaque.

Several other awards have been implemented in the 128th to recognize individual contributions to safety and health. Awards available are certificates, coffee mugs, time off, and gift certificates.

Safety awards are used to recognize, enhance and motivate safe behavior, which will decrease mishap potential and save lives.



Left to right, Master Sgts. Joe Parlato, Don Larsen and Jim Dagenhardt became the first 128th Air Refueling Wing members to receive the new safety medallion.

Key command, staff changes

Three major commands of the Wisconsin Army National Guard have new leaders after a number of key assignments took affect recently.

Col. James A. Krueck took command of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Oct. 15. Krueck, a member of the Wisconsin National Guard since 1966, assumed command from Col. James P. Daley.

Krueck continues his full-time assignment as command logistics officer. Daley is now assigned as director of logistics at the state headquarters.

Col. Terry Bortz took charge of 64th Troop Command in Sep-

tember. Bortz had been deputy commander. He succeeds Col.

James Olson, who is now commander of the 426th Leadership Regiment at the Wisconsin Military Academy. Olson replaced Col. Roland Alger as the commander.

Several changes in key staff positions also took effect in the past several months.

Lt. Col. Bryan Much is the new director of plans, operations and training. Much previously was assigned as director of information management.

Col. Craig Schuetz, formerly assigned as plans, operations and

training director, is now director of aviation and safety.

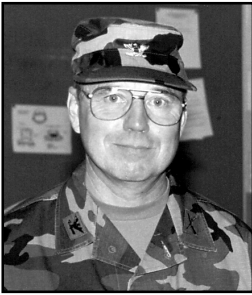
Lt. Col. Scott Legwold replaced Much as information management director. Legwold previously headed the training branch in the plans, operations and training directorate.

Command of several battalion-level units also changed in the past few months.

Lt. Col. Thomas Rhatican replaced Lt. Col. James Roth at 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation.

Maj. Daniel Wierichs assumed command of the 132nd Forward Support Battalion from Lt. Col. Scott Legwold.

Maj. Ricky Kappus succeeded Maj. Kristine Fitzgerald as detachment commander for Headquarters State Area Command.



Col. James Krueck

Army Guard has new top NCO

Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III has been selected to become the new command sergeant major and senior enlisted advisor for the Army National Guard. He will serve as the chief advocate for the Army Guard's more than 300,000-plus enlisted citizen-soldiers.

Lever was formerly assigned as the state command sergeant major for the South Carolina Army National Guard.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Lever is a soldier's soldier," said Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard. "We looked over the very best of our top enlisted leaders, and felt that he would

be a tremendous asset for keeping his hand on the pulse of our soldiers."

A 1969 Citadel graduate, Lever received a bachelor's degree in political science and went on to earn a master's degree in management.

He enlisted in the South Carolina National Guard in 1969. In 29 years, he has held all noncommissioned officer leadership positions to rise to the rank of command sergeant major.

Lever will replace Command Sgt. Maj. John Leonard, who is assuming the senior enlisted position in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

From Soviet soldier to Army Guard physician

Story and Photos by
Gordie Blum
At Ease Staff

When Vladimir Osipov completed medical school in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1992 after serving in the Soviet army during the Cold War, his future plans probably didn't include five years of active duty in the U.S. Army as a machinist. Nor did his plans include duty as a flight surgeon in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. But things have a funny way of happening.

On Sept. 9, Sergeant Osipov of Company B, 118th Medical Battalion, became Captain Osipov.

Osipov grew up in Sochi, a city of 350,000 located in the state of Georgia in Russia's far southwest corner where the Caucasus Mountains meet the Black Sea.

He wanted to go to medical school, but was drafted into the Soviet Army at a time "when everyone was drafted."

So the only way for Osipov to get through medical school was to attend the military medical academy in St. Petersburg.

He passed the admission exam, went through cadet basic training, and was assigned to a cadet airborne troop for two years while studying medicine at the academy.

Osipov said he was lucky to get into the academy as he was the only one admitted whose parents were civilians: "My recruiter told me that if I didn't make it to the academy, I was going to Afghanistan. Not that I needed it, but that was pretty motivating."

After the academy, Osipov was assigned to a combat engineer unit.

"That was tough. We spent a lot of time in the field building bridges and getting dirty. I have a lot of respect for all combat engi-

neers," he said.

After his three-year military stint was over, Osipov transferred his credits to a civilian Russian medical university—(Pavlov University, named, of course, after the famous doctor with the drooling dogs) to finish his degree. That took another four years.

During his time at the medical university, he often went to a local dance club. There he noticed an American girl who was studying Russian at the same university. Osipov at first thought she was a bit strange. "She taught us square dancing and the lambada," he chuckled. But when Osipov invited a group of friends including the "crazy American" to see his hometown, "She was one of only two people that took me up on the offer."

Vladimir discovered that maybe Lydia wasn't so strange after all, and the two got married in June 1992.

Russia was starting to break up, and there was no funding available for Osipov to complete his residency. So they emigrated to Maine to temporarily live with her parents.

"Maine was beautiful, but it was hard for me to find work," he said. "Finally, the idea dawned on me to check out the U.S. Army. I was shocked to learn that they would actually pay me to serve!"

First, the recruiter had to get special clearance to allow a former Russian citizen to join. The clearance was granted, but at the time there weren't any medical jobs available.

"I was just so happy that I could get accepted, that I was pretty willing to accept anything," Osipov said. He entered the Army as machinist, and went to basic at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

"Actually, American basic training was pretty similar to Russian. Basic soldiering skills such as learning to march and shoot are probably the



Capt. Vladimir Osipov is sworn in as a Wisconsin Army National Guard officer.



Osipov shows Staff Sgt. Brenda Rohloff some specimens under a two-headed microscope. The specially designed scopes are used for teaching purposes, or so two doctors can simultaneously view and discuss specimens.

same wherever you go. But I was learning so many new cultural things, especially from the drill sergeants. And the food was much better. While everyone else was complaining, I was astonished at the variety of meats, breads, and produce."

After a short tour in El Paso, Osipov put in paperwork to get assigned overseas. He wanted Europe, but instead got Panama.

"I didn't even know we had troops there," he said.

When he got there, he found out the machine shop had been closed. So he got assigned to an Army boat company.

"I had visions of wearing swimming trunks and scrubbing hulls, but mainly we made parts for the boats," he said. "Most of it was welding work, though, so I got transferred to Fort Clayton, which is right next to Rodman Naval Base. Since they also didn't have much use in Panama for a machinist, and the Navy had a severe shortage of security staff, he ended up being sent through the Naval Police Academy.

"That was cool," he said. "I learned CPR, tactics and riot control. I and a few others became the first Army soldiers to ever serve as Naval security."

In 1998, Osipov decided it was time to get out of being a full-time soldier and pursue his American medical degree.

He joined the New Hampshire National Guard as a combat medic, and worked towards passing the U.S. medical license examination.

The boards for foreign medical doctors consist of three steps: basic science such as physiology and pharmacology—which he completed while in Panama; clinical science such as pathology and surgery; and a clinical assessment. "For the clinical assessment, you see a patient, and their history and chart. You then have to make your diagnosis and a treatment strategy," Osipov said.

He then started applying for residencies, and got accepted at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He is now serving his pathology residency at

Froedtert Hospital and is in his second year. His duties include performing autopsies and making diagnosis on various tissue specimens (biopsies).

"The amount of knowledge to learn for pathologists is immense," said Dr. Osipov. "That's why post-doctorate residency training is five years."

According to Capt. Gary Thompson, who recruits medical personnel for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, it wasn't easy getting Osipov his commission.

"We have limited openings for people with Doctor Osipov's credentials as a pathologist. Finding him a slot was the first battle. The second and more difficult one was getting all of his foreign medical school documentation approved by the Army Recruiting Command," Thompson said.

Osipov will serve as flight surgeon for the 147th Aviation Battalion in Madison.

Osipov and Lydia live in Milwaukee with their daughter, Robin.

Shinseki expands division teaming

Army News Service

Under a new concept called "corps packaging," all of the National Guard's eight combat divisions and 15 enhanced separate brigades will be matched with active-component divisions at the corps level.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki announced this expansion of teaming between active and Guard divisions Sept. 14 in a speech to 3,000 Guard officers at the National Guard Association annual conference in Atlantic City, N.J.

Shinseki said the recent teaming of the 1st Cavalry Division with the Texas Guard's 49th Armored Division to train for Bosnia went so well that he is going to "expand that experiment."

"Those alignments are going to bring us to a level of readiness we've always talked about getting to," he said. "And this is our commitment to get there. We will all be expected to respond to missions and operational requirements that span the entire spectrum of operation."

The announcement also expands last year's alignment of six Army Guard enhanced brigades to the reactivated 24th Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., and

the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo., as their primary combat forces.

Shinseki's plan takes the program all the way with all the divisions and enhanced brigades.

Under I Corps at Fort Lewis, Wash., California's 40th Armored Division is teamed with the Army's 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, while the corps also includes three of the Guard's enhanced brigades—the 116th Armored Cavalry Brigade in Idaho, the 29th Infantry Brigade in Hawaii, and Washington's 81st Infantry Brigade.

Under III Corps at Fort Hood, Texas, the 7th Infantry Division's headquarters at Fort Carson, Colo., would align with the Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade in Arkansas, the 41st Infantry Brigade in Oregon, the 45th Infantry Brigade in Oklahoma and the 155th Armored Brigade in Mississippi.

The 49th Armored Division remains paired with the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood; Minnesota's 34th Infantry Division with the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood; and Indiana's 38th Infantry Division with Fort Carson, Colo.

Kansas' 35th Infantry Division would fall under V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany along with

Louisiana's 256th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) and Tennessee's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C., includes these relationships: the 29th division with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.; the 28th division with the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga.; and New York's 42nd Infantry Division with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.

The 24th Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., which falls under the XVIII Airborne Corps would be aligned with New York's 27th Infantry Brigade, North Carolina's 30th Infantry Brigade, Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade, Florida's 53rd Infantry Brigade, Indiana's 76th Infantry Brigade and South Carolina's 218th Infantry Brigade.

Army National Guard Director Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz said Shinseki's announcement was welcomed by the Guard community.

"Having our combat divisions and our enhanced brigades assigned to the Army's four corps gives us the credibility we have been striving to achieve for the past 10 years, since so many of our citizen-soldiers took part in Desert Shield and Desert Storm," Schultz said.

Sharing holidays



Staff Sgt. Phillip Smith helps Verona High School students load up a HMMWV for the Share Your Holidays Food Drive. Madison area Army Guard units take part in the drive, distributing food to local food pantries. Smith is a recruiter with the 132nd Forward Support Battalion. Photo by Kelly Pensinger.

Guard, Reserve work together in state youth camp program

By Capt. Jacqueline Guthrie
84th Division Public Affairs

At least 200 young people had something exciting to share at school this fall.

The youths, Wisconsin service members' sons and daughters, are graduates of the 8th Annual Wisconsin Youth Camp. Held annually at Fort McCoy, Wis., the camp is sponsored by the Wisconsin National Guard's Family Program and took place this year Aug. 11-13.

"The purpose of the program is to give kids the opportunity to see what their parents do on a drill weekend," said Lt. Col. Ken Grant, youth camp director. Participants, ages 8 to 17, get a taste of the military by marching, rappelling, eating in a military dining facility, sleeping in Army barracks or tents and even doing push-ups for drill sergeants, Grant said.

But this three-day summer camp wasn't all work. The youths also had the opportunity to complete a confidence course, ride in a military personnel carrier, swim in the pool or lake and participate in a variety of sporting activities. "It's a lot of fun," said Stacie

Ringelstetter, 17. Ringelstetter is the daughter of Master Sgt. Brian and Sarah Ringelstetter. She has attended the last seven summers and said she wouldn't miss it. In addition to the confidence she's gained through participating in challenging activities such as rappelling, she said she's made friendships she thinks will last a lifetime. And while this is her last year as a camper, she says, "I'll still be back next year as a counselor."

While the Wisconsin National Guard sponsors the program, Grant says it is only possible because of more than 200 volunteers, thousands of dollars' worth of donations and the hard work of soldiers and airmen. Among those providing support are 84th Division (Institutional Training), U.S. Army Reserve drill instructors.

"They provide an added touch to the entire program," Grant said. "And the kids love it."

The drill instructors are from 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment in Oshkosh; 2nd Battalion, 274th Regiment in Fond du Lac; and 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment in Madison. All are part of the 84th Division's 2nd Brigade (Basic

Combat Training), headquartered in Beaver Dam. This is the third year the drill sergeants have taught at camp, Grant said.

"The drill instructors added another dimension to our training," making it more realistic, he explained. The drill instructors' job includes teaching drill and ceremony and physical training to the participants. They also run activities such as the conditioning and confidence course, rappelling and rope bridge crossings. And they help the youth groups form teams instead of working as individuals.

"It's similar to pick-up and the first couple weeks of basic training," said Sgt. Phil Heckl, an 84th Division drill sergeant, referring to the phase of basic combat training when the drill instructors start training new soldiers. One of the 84th Division's Army missions is to teach basic combat training to new soldiers at Army installations such as Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Benning, Ga.

"That's what we're trying to do," Heckl explained, "teach them the basics."

The 84th Division's involvement in the camp is part of an ongoing partnership with the Wis-

consin National Guard, according to Capt. Larry Gnewuch. Gnewuch is commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment. "We do a lot of missions with the Wisconsin National Guard," he explained, "including helping the Guard run a delayed entry training program for new soldiers preparing for basic training."

"It's perfect in that it gives our drill sergeants people to instruct," Gnewuch said of the partnership. "Otherwise they would be trying to improve their teaching techniques by teaching each other. This is much more effective," he stressed.

However, the 84th Division's involvement wasn't limited to providing drill instructors. Some soldiers also gave up their free time and volunteered to be counselors.

"I love kids, I love being around them," said 1st Sgt. Laurel Weyenberg, 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment. This was her first year as a camp counselor and she says she really enjoyed it. "It's a lot like (the first) phase in basic training," she explained. Therefore, she was able to use her military training throughout the weekend. But mostly she just enjoyed seeing the kids glow with pride

from their accomplishments.

Weyenberg was one of more than 200 service members, parents and camp graduates who made the program possible by serving as counselors, activity leaders, medics, security guards, cooks or staff.

"The success of the program is due to the volunteers," Grant said. While participants pay a \$25 registration fee, the funds don't cover what it would cost to pay for all the personnel and resources needed to run the camp. The program is only possible because of all the resources people give, including their time.

"Youth camp started in 1992 with 50 kids and 30 adults," Grant said. "This year more than 400 personnel were involved. Wisconsin Youth Camp is open to all youths age 8 to 17, regardless of their parents' vocation. The campers do not have to have parents serving in the military. However, as the number of campers increases the need for volunteers and donations also grows," he stressed, encouraging more people to get involved next year in the 9th Annual Wisconsin Youth Camp.



Above: Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Kickbush (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Craig Ver Voort help Emma Wabrowetz, 14 with one of the confidence course obstacles during this year's Wisconsin Youth Camp. Kickbush and Ver Voort are both drill instructors in 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 84th Division, headquartered in Oshkosh.



Youth Camp needs volunteers

By Maj. Joni Mathews
Family Support

The 9th Annual Youth Camp is scheduled for June 29 – July 1, 2001 at Ft. McCoy. The camp offers the unique opportunity for National Guard youth to experience military life on a firsthand basis. Youth also learn team building through various activities.

Youth Camp volunteers are needed to establish the required ratio of campers to staff. There are openings available in logistics, medical support, administration,

public affairs, cooks, activity support, security, and camp counselor positions. Children of National Guard personnel are eligible for selection as campers. The age range for campers is 8 to 17.

Volunteer and youth applications will be mailed early February to those individuals who attended Youth Camp 2000. Thereafter, they will be available on the Family Home Page on the Intranet (through the Army Reserve Communication System, RCAS), or by calling the Family Program Office (1-800-292-9464). The Camp fills quickly. Children of volunteers at the

Camp are given priority for selection to be campers.

The Youth Camp 2000 video is also available for sale at the state Family Program Office. Proceeds to the sale of the video will go towards Youth Camp 2001. Contact the Family Program Office if you'd like to purchase one.

We thank all of the units and bases who have provided their assistance, expertise, and support, along with the civilian organizations for donations. And also the 232 volunteers, for without them, Youth Camp would not be possible.



Above: Sgt. Nick Henke (left) and Staff Sgt. Steve Kelley help camp participants during a sling shot competition. Both are drill instructors in 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 84th Division, headquartered in Madison.

Left: Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. Rellis Beals teaches 11 to 13 year-olds drill and ceremony skills with the help of Counselor and 1st Sgt. Laurel Weyenburg. Beals is a member of 2nd Battalion, 339th Regiment 2nd Brigade, 84th Division, headquartered in Madison. Weyenburg is a member of 3rd Battalion, 274th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 84th Division, headquartered in Oshkosh.

Climber credits Guard for funds, drive to prevail

By Vern Borth
At Ease Staff

A Wisconsin soldier credits the Wisconsin Guard's tuition reimbursement program and his military training with helping him to reach one of the highest points on earth.

Mount Kilimanjaro rises 19,340 feet above Tanzania in eastern Africa.

In the early morning hours of New Year's Day 2000, Jason Reiman and four friends greeted the new year in Kilimanjaro's frigid, rarefied air beset by altitude sickness, but buoyed by a keen sense of accomplishment.

Reiman's journey began with a dream. "Since I was a little boy, the only two things I really wanted to do were to be in the Army and go to Africa."

The Army part began when he enlisted at age 17 in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1995, while a senior at Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids. But his first tour of duty was short lived. He broke his foot while at basic training at Fort Sill, Okla. in the summer of 1996 and was given a general discharge.

When the foot healed, he teamed up with a recruiter to re-enter the Guard in the summer of 1997.

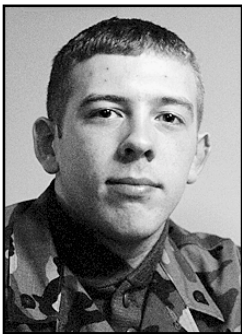
His second basic training began in January 1998. Six weeks into his second trip to Fort Sill, he broke his other foot.

He completed his end-of-cycle tests on crutches, but remained at Fort Sill after his one-station unit

training battery graduated in May. He completed the necessary Army physical fitness test in July and re-joined Battery C, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, in Stevens Point.

A student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Reiman needed the Wisconsin Guard's tuition assistance to continue his education. Now a senior with double majors in wildlife management and general resource management, "I couldn't be going to school without it." An Army ROTC cadet, Spc. Reiman has minors in military science and internal resource management.

When UW-SP's international program offered a trip to Africa, Reiman grabbed for the second part of his dream. The trip included a visit to the Indian Ocean and study of the ecosystems of the Serengeti National Park. But first the students had to brave Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa, with a goal of being at the peak to greet the new millennium.



Jason Reiman



Spc. Jason Reiman (center) stands with four fellow climbers at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa on New Year's Day 2000. An artilleryman with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, Stevens Point, he credits Wisconsin Guard education benefits and military training for his opportunity to conquer the mountain. Photo courtesy of Jason Reiman.

They left the heat at the base of the mountain, which is 4 degrees south of the equator, for the entrance to Kilimanjaro National Park at 7,000 feet. At that elevation, Reiman already was nauseated from the altitude and their vehicles became stuck in the mud.

The students walked further to 12,000 feet. Reiman lagged at first, but caught up. "I thought I was in pretty good shape." At 12,000 feet many others got sick as it got dark and started to rain, with temperatures dropping to the 30s and 20s.

"I could definitely compare it to the first night of AT," said Reiman. He remembered thinking, "What if I was here being deployed?"

They moved from 12,000 to 13,000 feet the next day, and from 13,000 feet to 14,000 feet the next. They slept in tents on the rocks of Kilimanjaro each night. The nausea and headaches worsened for many, but Reiman's got better; he and the professor in charge brought up the rear to prevent stragglers. The mountain hikers moved 10 to 12 feet at a time between rests.

They awoke to snow at 14,000 feet. When the summit loomed above Reiman said, "I started to doubt myself as to whether I could make it up to the top."

He and the others hiked to 16,000 feet, however, by noon on New Year's Eve. There, they slept nervously from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.

and set out for the summit at midnight, wearing layers of winter clothing and miners' lamps.

"The first thing I remember is that tent whipping back and forth in the wind. I knew right then it was going to be tough." The temperature dipped to 30 degrees below zero as they climbed the winding path and rocks to the 18,000-foot crater rim of Kilimanjaro's ancient volcano. Reiman's drinking water froze in his pack in the first of the five hours enroute to the rim.

He and the instructor, who had climbed the mountain three times before, were in the first group of five UW-SP climbers. The central Wisconsin hikers were among the 1,000 climbers aiming at the summit that night and they could see others' lanterns glowing in the dark as they ascended. They had to step around other climbers who had dropped out.

At one point, Reiman, drained by fatigue and lack of air and water, slipped and fell 10 feet.

By the time they reached the rim, the batteries had died from the cold in all but one of his group's five lanterns. Reiman remembers going 30 or 40 feet at a time and wanting to fall asleep.

"You had to help the next person. You just had to keep going," he said. He reports crawling over the top of the rim on his hands and knees. Reiman wanted to quit. "My legs felt like rocks," he said. But his instructor kept saying, "We're almost there. We're almost there."

Then, "All right. Who's going to the top?"

"I felt like I had to go. I didn't want to turn back," said Reiman. In the first half-hour of the two-hour trek to the peak, he began to have hallucinations—wavy lights flashing in front of his eyes whenever he would look up—so he just kept watching the heels of the person ahead of him.

At one point, he stopped and took a 10-minute nap with a porter at his side. After that, it was four or five steps between breaks.

When he reached the flat peak, "I just collapsed."

He remembers the instructor saying, "Your lips are blue. Your nose is blue. Lets send you down."

Reiman spent about 10 minutes at the pinnacle of Kilimanjaro. He was the third of the only five group members who did make it to the top after sunrise on New Year's Day. "It really kicked alot of our butts," he said He has a newspaper clipping that reports two climbers from another party died on the mountain that day. Despite the exhaustion "I didn't want to go home and say, 'I didn't make it to the top.'" "I'm glad I joined the Army before I climbed that mountain," said Reiman. "I don't think I would have had the determination and basic drive to make the climb." He recalled his basic military training, completed after two broken feet. "They teach you that when you think you're done, you can always do more."

Reiman enjoys teaching recruits

Spc. Jason Reiman is in charge of sponsoring new soldiers at Battery C, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, Stevens Point. "I try to make them feel welcome," says Reiman.

"Whenever they get in there, I try to teach them as much as I can before they leave for OSUT." In the year and a half that he has been a sponsor, he has trained about 15 new soldiers in basic tasks.

"It's a lot of fun," he says. "I like training." His soldiers have had competitions for disassembly and reassembly of M-

16 rifles and grenade tosses. He has taught drill and ceremony, rank structure, setting up communication lines, the phonetic alphabet and the SALUTE (size, activity, location, unit, time and equipment) report.

He held a field training exercise in his parents' back yard south of Wisconsin Rapids, including training in use of radios and deployment of Claymore mines.

He notes with pride that "I've even had some of the guys that had already been to basic training give it a try."

Midwest Express receives national ESGR award

By Larry Sommers
At Ease Staff

It may have been the chocolate-chip cookies that cinched it: Midwest Express Airlines won the National Employer Support Freedom Award in a Defense Department ceremony Nov. 2 in Washington. The award is the highest honor given to employers by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The Oak Creek, Wisconsin, carrier, which boasts "the best care in the air," takes care of its employees who are Guard and Reserve members by making up the difference between their military and civilian pay during deployments and by continuing their medical and dental benefits, life insurance, vacation pay, profit sharing and 401(k) retirement plan contributions.

But that's just for starters, according to retired Air Guard Lt. Col. Bruce Swezey, who as a Midwest Express employee nominated his

employer for the honor. When Milwaukee's 128th Air Refueling Wing deployed for the Kosovo crisis in May 1999, company president Tim Hoeksema sent a memo urging all Midwest Express departments to support fellow employees called for overseas duty.

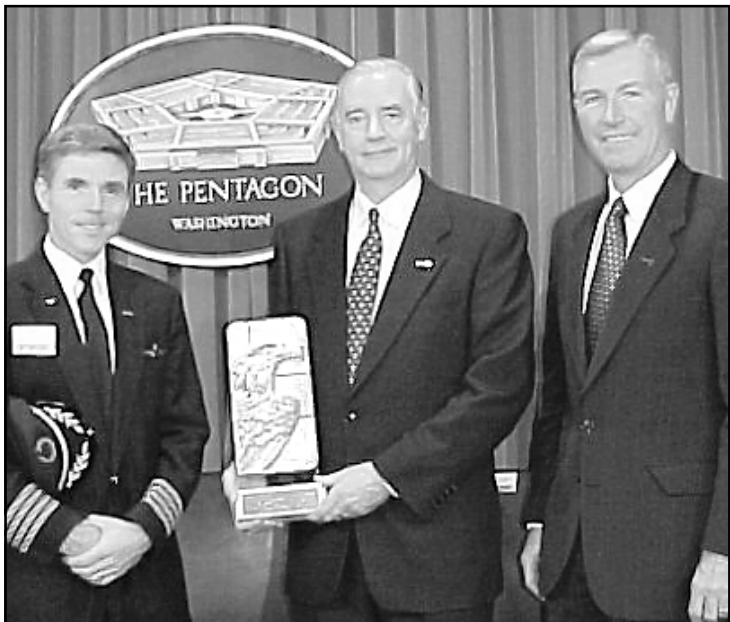
As a result, Swezey while overseas received a flood of letters, cards, e-mails and packages—including the airline's famous chocolate-chip cookies—from fellow employees. After returning from the Kosovo deployment, he logged on to the ESGR Web site (<http://www.esgr.org>) and filled out the online version of ESGR's "My Boss is a Patriot" award nomination form. "It took about 15 minutes to fill out on the Web site," Swezey said.

Based on Swezey's nomination and additional information provided by Swezey and Wisconsin State ESGR Committee chairman Fred McCormick, Midwest Express was placed among five regional finalists for this year's Freedom

Award. To make the final selection, a packet with information on each of the five finalists is sent to each of 12 randomly-selected Guard and Reserve members across the country.

"At the award ceremony in Washington, I had the opportunity to speak with a Naval Reserve member who was one of the 12 final judges," Swezey said. "He told me that the one thing that made Midwest Express stand out from the other nominees was that everybody in the company got involved. It wasn't just a formal company policy, but top management got the whole organization motivated to support the Guard and Reserve."

Other nominees for the award included the American Express service center in Salt Lake City; Framatome Connectors USA, Inc., Manchester N.H.; Intel Corp., Rio Rancho, N.M.; and Technology Concepts and Design, Inc., Manassas, Va. They received awards as regional winners.



Retired Air National Guard Lt. Col. Bruce Swezey, left, nominated his employer, Midwest Express Airlines for the nation's top employer award. Accepting the award is David Reeve, the airline's senior vice president for operations. State ESGR chairman Fred McCormick, right, also attended the Pentagon ceremony.

National News Briefs

DFAS offers W-2 advice

DFAS-Indianapolis (Army News Service, Oct. 31, 2000) — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service plans to mail all calendar year 2000 Army W-2s by mid-month January 2001.

Some year-end adjustments will not be included in the original W-2 but will be included in a corrected W-2 (Form W-2C).

If soldiers have reason to believe individual W-2 forms do not include all pertinent data and they have not received W-2C forms, DFAS officials said, they can call their servicing finance office. Separated soldiers can call Military Pay customer service, toll-free, at (888) PAY ARMY or commercial (317) 510-2800.

Before filing federal or state tax returns, officials recommend soldiers have in their possession all W-2 (Wage and Tax Statement) and W-2C forms.

In addition to the W-2 for wages, some current and former soldiers will also receive an additional W-2 if they:

- Had a do-it-yourself (DITY) move
- Participated in the Student Loan Repayment Plan
- Filed a Public Law 220 Claim
- Filed an Army Board of Correction Claim

These non-wage items are not reflected on soldiers' final 2000 Leave and Earnings Statement, officials said. Also, adjustments effected by Combat Zone Tax Exclusion entitlements may also not appear on the final LES. Soldiers should not use their final LES to file taxes.

This year's Army National Guard W-2s and Student Loan Repayment Plan W-2s will be sent to the U.S. Property and Fiscal Offices for distribution. Army Reserve personnel will continue to receive W-2s mailed to their address of record as they did last year.

For assistance with Army pay or LES problems, soldiers should first contact their servicing finance office. If that doesn't work, they can call the DFAS-Indianapolis Military Pay customer service hotline at (888) PAY ARMY, DSN 699-2800, or commercial (317) 510-2800.

Pentagon scales back anthrax program again

American Forces Information Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 - For the second time in five months, the Pentagon is scaling back its troubled plan to inoculate all military personnel against anthrax because of dwindling supplies of the vaccine, senior military officials said today.

William S. Cohen, the secretary of defense, announced in late 1997 that all 2.4 million active and reserve military personnel would be vaccinated against the disease by 2003.

But in July, Mr. Cohen limited vaccinations to those most at risk to attack, in South Korea and the Middle East, because much of the nation's vaccine stockpile was found to have lost its potency.

Now the military will vaccinate only personnel in the Persian Gulf region because of continuing production delays at the nation's sole licensed plant for the vaccine.

Iraq and North Korea are believed to have stockpiles of anthrax that can be used in weapons. But Pentagon officials said today that they believed that the risk of an attack was greater in the Persian Gulf region.

"Given that Saddam Hussein has used chemical weapons in the past against Iran and against the Kurdish minority in his own country, we assess the risks to be greater in Iraq than we do right now in the Korean Peninsula," said Kenneth Bacon, the assistant secretary of defense for public information.

Nearly half a million military personnel have received full or partial immunization against anthrax since Mr. Cohen issued his 1997 order. Six vaccinations over 18 months are required to provide full protection.

Mr. Bacon said that the military had about 60,000 doses of the vaccine left, aside from an emergency stockpile. He said that the Pentagon would continue to administer about 5,000 doses a month, down from 17,000.

Anthrax bacteria usually afflict animals, especially sheep and cattle. But biological weapons disseminating the dry, odorless, tasteless anthrax spores can kill a victim in just days.

Since its inception, the program has been plagued by problems. At least 200 military personnel have refused the vaccine out of concerns about its safety. The refusals have caused some members of Congress to call for the program's suspension.

The Pentagon has also been forced to pay twice as much as it planned for the vaccine after the nation's sole licensed manufacturer, the BioPort Corporation of Lansing, Mich., said in 1999 it might fail if the Pentagon did not increase payments.

The company's board includes Adm. William J. Crowe Jr., a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who is retired.

Then in December 1999, the Food and Drug Administration ordered production of the vaccine halted after inspectors found dozens of violations in safety, consistency, record-keeping and sterility at the Lansing plant.

Maj. Gen. Randall L. West of the Marines, a senior Pentagon adviser on chemical and biological defense, said that the plant might resume production after next summer.

Future Guard officer candidates attend Command Force XXI

At Ease Staff

Thirty-eight leaders of tomorrow's Army National Guard gathered at the Wisconsin Military Academy recently for Command Force XXI. The soldiers who are considering Officer Candidate School (OCS), spent the day reviewing course requirements and asking questions.

The next OCS class starts in April and all interested and qualified soldiers should step up to the challenge.

The qualifications are:

- Have and ASVAB GT Score of 110 or higher.
- Have an ACT Score of 19 or better or an SAT Score of 850 or

better. This is waiverable if the candidate has a college degree.

- Have completed a minimum of 60 college semester hours to enroll. The candidate must have 90 college semester hour completed to receive your commission.

- Be able to pass a Chapter 2 Appointment Physical at MEPS.

- Meet the APFT and height weight standards.

- Complete Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Soldiers enlisting for the "OCS Enlistment Option" do not need to have a completed AIT.

- Be a United States Citizen.

- Be of good moral character.

Generally speaking, this means the

soldier must have a clean police record. Civil convictions involving anything greater than a \$299 traffic violation will require a waiver.

Those interested in OCS should talk to their platoon sergeant or first sergeant about attending the next Command Force XXI, set for March 2001. Also, a video called "OCS, The First Step" provides a glimpse into the OCS program. All Wisconsin Army National Guard recruiters have a copy of this tape.

There is still time to enroll in the next class. The Wisconsin Army Guard needs junior officers. For more information call (608) 388-9933.

OCS Phase III

By Larry Sommers

At Ease Staff

Making a Wisconsin National Guard officer through Officer Candidate School (OCS) is like baking a cake: The first layer (Phase I) consists of two weeks at Camp Ripley, Minn., learning basic leadership skills. The second layer (Phase II) is a year's worth of monthly weekend drills at the Wisconsin Military Academy (WMA), Fort McCoy, Wis.

The glue that bonds the layers together, and the outer coat that shows the quality of the finished product — in fact, the icing on the cake — is Phase III, a two-week gauntlet of action and stress at Fort Lewis, Wash. Phase III is designed to evaluate the candidate and effect his or her transition to the gold bars of a second lieutenant.

This year 30 Wisconsinites were among 278 officer candidates from 31 states who braved Phase III at Fort Lewis. The Wisconsin Military Academy also furnished more than 20 people for command and staff positions in the multi-state camp, held July 29 through Aug. 11.

Each year a regiment is formed and uncases the colors of the historic 116th Snake River Cavalry Regiment for the two weeks of intense training. This year the regiment had a Badger-flavored command section, with Col. John Schwenner, WMA XO, as regimental commander; Maj. Markley Wahl then logistics officer of the 426th Leadership Regiment (now assigned to the 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery), as executive officer; and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Strathmann as the regiment's command sergeant major.

The two weeks' training begins with a series of exercises: the Confidence Course, the Field Leader's Reaction Course, the Combat Swim and the Regimental Run. These challenges prepare candidates for the meat of the training, a series of squad- and platoon-level situational training exercises (STX). In the STXs, each officer candidate gets a chance to function in leadership positions including squad leader

and platoon leader. They are evaluated on how well they plan and execute missions after receiving operational orders from trainers. The purpose of the exercises is to evaluate each candidate's response to stressful situations that require immediate decisions and action.

"Phase III was outstanding because you get to apply a lot of things," said 2nd Lt. Micah Goettl of 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery. "You normally never get to see the chaos that actually happens when every good plan falls apart and the fog of war sets in. In Phase III you really get to see it up close and deal with it. It makes you appreciate the value of unit cohesion, discipline and training."

Goettl is among the officer candidates who pinned on their gold bars at an Aug. 19 graduation ceremony after successfully completing Phase III.

"Now they will go out to their units and apply the leadership skills they have honed," said Strathmann, "to assist the units in mission accomplishment."

Officer Candidate School graduation

By Tom Michele

At Ease staff

Thirty Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers joined the ranks of nearly 1,530 graduates of the Wisconsin Military Academy's Officer Candidate School (OCS) Aug. 14 at Fort McCoy.

The ceremony was conducted at the academy, home for

the 426th Leadership Regiment, the parent unit for the Badger OCS program.

The majority of the graduates took the oath of commissioning as second lieutenants, having their family members or friends pin the gold bars on their shoulders. A few of the graduates received a certificate of completion that permits them to

accept a commission sometime within the next two years in the Guard or Reserve.

The OCS course is 15 months long. It starts with a two-week annual training period at Camp Ripley, Minn., followed by monthly drill assemblies at WMA, and culminating a two-week annual training period at Fort Lewis, Wash.



VFW convention visits Air Guard base

Master Sgt. Patrick Sosinski of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing, provides a tour of the KC-135R aircraft to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on Aug. 23. The 128th held an open house and orientation at its Mitchell Field base for VFW members who were attending their national convention in Milwaukee. Photo by Steve Olson.



at ease

The simulated crash of an Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter prompted a fast response from the Truax Fire Department and medical personnel from both the 115th Fighter Wing and 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation. The November exercise tested the units' capabilities to respond to an aircraft emergency and to effectively coordinate their efforts. Photo by Tom Michele.

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